This Old House

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p. 39

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JULY 2014

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PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP): JEAN ALLSOPP; YUNHEE KIM; JEAN ALLSOPP

Cover Photograph by DEBORAH WHITLAW LLEWELLYN
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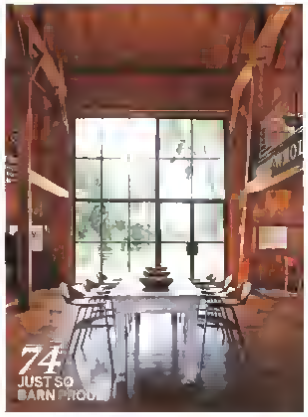

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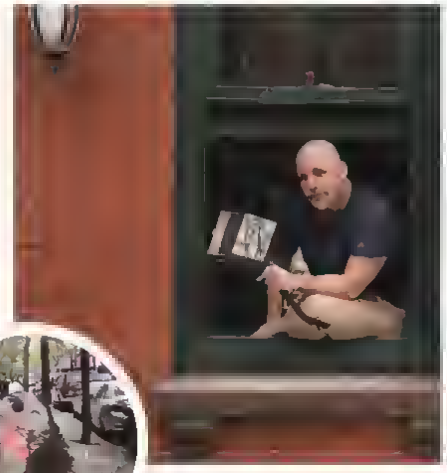
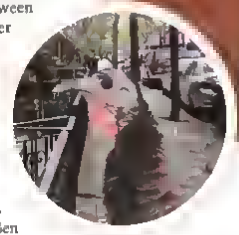
Fowl play





The editor prepares to install one of Ben Franklin's lesser known inventions. Called the Ben Franklin Busybody ($75 franklinbusybody.com), the three-mirror device, a precursor to today's security cams, mounts outside a window and allows you to surreptitiously see who's at your door—or what manner of visitor might be strutting down your street—from the safety of inside.

Pictures or it didn't happen, the saying goes. But how often do you have the camera handy just when a wild turkey comes strutting down the sidewalk in front of your house?

Maybe turkeys aren't so unusual for you, but I live in a row-house in a city of 52,000 men, women, and children, hemmed in by railroad and highway, only a square mile in size, and just 2.2 miles from Times Square as the, uh, crow flies.

Pigeons we get. Wild turkeys—not so much.

And yet, here was this gobbler gallivanting right down Garden Street one recent evening, prancing between parked cars and passing me just like a neighbor on her way home from work as I stood at the gate. And for the skeptics among you: Yes, I most definitely saw the bird, and no, I hadn't been sipping any of its namesake booze.

Anyway, the turkey's appearance wasn't really the odd part. The odd part was that it showed up on the anniversary of Ben Franklin's death, which I learned while looking up facts about the birds, such as whether they spend much time in Hoboken. As you may remember from grammar school days, Ben thought the turkey a better representative of the young United States than the bald eagle, which he considered to have "bad moral character." Odder still, the sighting happened just as we were in the middle of preparing this issue, our All-American issue.

I'm not a superstitious man, but the turkey's appearance seemed like some kind of omen, an augury of the state of the nation, maybe. Good or bad? Well, the union has had its share of challenges in the past 10 or 15 years. But if the stories in the pages that follow are any indication, I'd suggest that turkey came to remind me that the spirit of old Ben himself—his penchant for civic improvement, self-improvement, inventiveness, and knowing a thing or two about electricity—is alive and well from coast to coast.

You'll see it in our roundup of old-fashioned hardware stores (page 44), in the portrait of artisan Laurie Crogan (page 48); in the American-made building products *TOH* general contractor Tom Silva discusses in Ask This Old House (page 59); and in my favorite story, "American Classics," a look at the iconic products we grew up with that are still made on these shores (page 64).

Take a look and let me know what you think. I'd say you'd be some kind of a turkey to disagree, but under the circumstances I...

Scott Omelianuk

SCOTT OMELIANUK, EDITOR
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PHOTOS: (OMELIANUK AND STREET SCENE) IAN SPANIER; (TURKEY) PAUL TESSIER/ISTOCKPHOTO

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- Keep fixings nearby with a rolling grill table
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- Put in a Murphy bar

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HOW TO VIDEO

How to sharpen a lawn-mower blade

Get pro tips from *This Old House* landscape contractor Roger Cook on keeping a lawn healthy by trimming it with a clean-cutting blade. See his techniques at **thisoldhouse.com/jul2014**

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Reader mail

SUMMER IS IN FULL SWING *And that means most of our readers are busy outdoors, like the family behind this month's Reader Project, below. We also heard from the lawn-challenged and reassured fans of a favorite column.*

Where did it go?

I love your magazine and save old issues for ideas to use when I finally buy my own home. You had a lot of great articles in May 2014, but I was disappointed not to find Photoshop Redo, one of my favorites. Whenever I see a house I might buy, I ask myself, "Could this be cuteified?" I hope to see that section return!

—TRINKA GILLIS, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIF.

THE EDITORS REPLY *No worries, Trinka! Photoshop Redo is a perennial favorite that will keep coming back. You can find the latest one on page 43.*

Lawns by many other names

Re "Better Turf With Less Work," April 2014. It would be a waste of time and money to try to grow the "perfect" lawn here considering the amount of herbicides and pesticides required. Our rule of thumb is: If it's green and we can mow it, it's a lawn. It would have been helpful to see a longer list of plant alternatives for those with climates or soil types that don't support grass.

—KEITH J. HAMPTON, ENGLISH, IND.

THE EDITORS REPLY *We hear you! That's why we've done other articles and also videos on reducing, replacing, and organically maintaining your lawn. Find them at thisoldhouse.com/jul2014*

HOW TO REACH US

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Please include your full name, address, and phone number. Published letters are edited for clarity and length.

READER OF THE MONTH

Veggie garden

—EMILY TROUTMAN, RYE, N.H.

My husband and I were inspired by your past article on growing a vegetable garden [top right; find it at thisoldhouse.com/Jul2014]. So, with some help from friends and family over lots of hours, we built our first garden and started plants in our basement from seed. I am so excited about what we have created. Thank you!

This Old House on tablet

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Checklist

Easy ways to improve your home right now

6 FAST FIXES

Trim evergreen trees If they need shaping, give juniper and pine trees a light trim now, after they've established their new spring growth.

Know your storm plan Confirm the location of your gas and water shutoff valves and learn how to turn off the electricity in case of severe summer weather.

Clean bathroom fans Give yours a refresher by removing the cover and wiping it and the blades with a damp cloth. Be sure to disconnect the power at the circuit breaker first.

Test garage doors To keep kids safe, check the auto-reverse feature by placing a block of wood in each door's path. If it doesn't bounce back after hitting the wood, call a pro.

Weed smarter Hand-pulling is easier after a summer rain, thanks to softened soil. For dry weeding, use a hoe to cut just below the soil line.

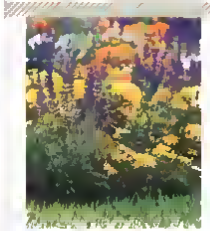
Tackle sidewalk mildew Concrete looking grimy? Spray with outdoor mildew remover before scrubbing away. Hose the area generously before and after to prevent damage to surrounding plants.

Keep pets tick-free

Hitchhiking ticks—which feed on mammals like deer, rodents, and, yes, dogs and people too—prefer shady, overgrown areas, so trimming shrubs and foliage gives them fewer places to hide. Also, remove any wood or debris piles which can house ticks and their rodent hosts; and, if your yard is lined by woods, add a 3-foot wide gravel border to make it harder for ticks to cross.

Help out container gardens

In hot, sunny weather, potted plants can dry out faster than those in the ground and may need daily watering—hanging baskets especially. To test the soil, poke your finger 1 to 2 inches in; if it's dry, give thirsty plants a drink. Adding water-absorbing granules to the soil can help retain moisture between waterings.



Get more flowers

Deadheading spent blooms before they have a chance to go to seed tricks plants into producing more flowers for the rest of the season. For smaller flowers, such as marigolds or balloon flowers, you can pinch off the blooms with your fingertips; for larger flowers, such as geraniums or zinnias, use shears to make a cut just above the highest leaf node, which helps to camouflage the cut.

Fix sticking doors

Humid summer days can cause wood doors to swell—and stick. If yours aren't opening and closing smoothly, check first for loose or misaligned hinges. If those look okay, remove the door and plane its edges so that the gap between the door and jamb is 1/16 to 3/16 inch. Paint the exposed edges to prevent re-swelling.

PHOTOS: (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) © PHOTOMICHAEL; COOLANTRY/DIGITALLY BORN/GETTY IMAGES; STOCKPHOTO; ERIC PARKER/OTTO; STOCKPHOTO; PAUL SIMCOCK/THE IMAGE BANK/GETTY IMAGES

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SLICE OF AMERICANA

INSIDE 10 USES GARDENING HOUSEHOLD HELPERS FLAG ETIQUETTE MORE

PHOTO: MARK LUND STYLING: HELEN QUINN FOR PAT BATES + ASSOCIATES

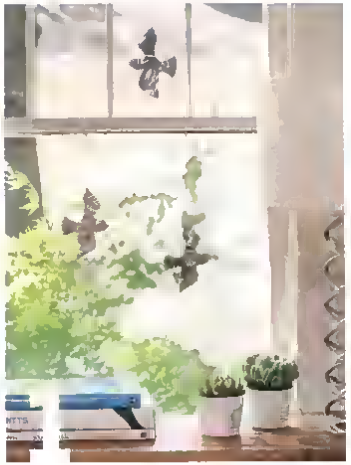
All-state bulletin board

Here's one way to show your national pride, no matter what part of the country you call home. Craft a custom corkboard inspired by the shape of the continental U.S. Just trace the outline from a map and enlarge on a copy machine (we made ours 18 by 30 inches). Set the template on top of cork (we used a 24-by-48-inch Quartet Cork Roll, $15; staples.com). Outline and cut out. Attach the cork to foam board with spray adhesive and trim with a utility knife. Pin up postcards from that milestone cross-country trip you took, or post write-ups of places to visit the next time you hit the road.

10 USES

Aluminum pie plates

Sure, the tin's disposable, but that's no reason to pitch it when the pie is all gone. Try these clever uses around the house



1> **Make a bird deflector.** Craft tin ornaments from a pie plate to keep feathered friends from striking your windows. (The ornaments break up the reflection.) Create a design—we drew ours freehand—and cut it out with tin snips. Poke decorative holes with the point of a compass and hang with string.

2> **Use one as a mini roller tray.** A pie tin is the perfect size to hold small amounts of paint when doing minor touch ups around the house.

3> **Prevent meltaway wax mess.** Place pie plates under burning candles outside to stop wax from dripping onto your table or patio.

4> **Squirrel-proof food for camping.** Poke a hole in the center of an upside-down pie plate and thread with rope, making a knot at the underside, leaving enough loose end to tie up your food bag. Loop the other end over a tree branch and hoist the bag up high; tie off. Squirrels slide off the wobbly plate before reaching the food.

5> **Store circular tools.** Cut a pie pan in half and secure the finished edges with staples or duct tape open-side up to a workshop wall. Use it to hold saw blades and sanding disks.

6> **Protect your stovetop.** Use pie plates to surround gas burners or to line burners on an electric range. Cut a hole in the center large enough for the burner, as needed.

7> **Keep creepy-crawlies out of pet food.** Fill a pie tin with an inch of water and place a pet-food bowl in it to prevent ants from having a snack.

8> **Fashion a bird feeder.** Using fishing wire and a large needle, sew the end of a duct connector to a pie plate. Cut the fluted rim off another pie plate and sew the disk to the top of the connector, bending the edges to create a roof. Poke drainage holes in the bottom plate; coat with water-based paint if desired. Thread wire through the top to hang and fill with seed.

9> **Rust bot tools.** Use an aluminum pie pan set on a heatproof surface as a resting place for your heat gun or soldering iron.

10> **Grill thin or bite-size veggies.** Poke the bottom of a pie plate with a knife, make alternating vertical and horizontal slits. Fill with vegetables that might otherwise slip through your grill grate, such as sliced peppers or asparagus.

—MICHELLE BRUNNER

MORE 10 USES
To find more smart uses for leftovers, blipp this page or go to thisoldhouse.com/jul2014

Grow plants with famous roots

There's no better way to feel connected to history and the land than to grow the same sunflowers, tomatoes, or peas as our Founding Fathers. The nurseries of three historic colonial landmarks sell heirlooms that are guaranteed to bring old-fashioned charm to your yard.

—ANNE E. STRATTON

MONTICELLO
Once a favorite at Thomas Jefferson's table, the Marrowfat pea is sold at the Center for Historic Plants at Monticello (right), alongside dozens of other heirloom edibles, such as the Costoluto Genovese tomato, a novelty in early 1800s America, flowers, including the native blackberry lily, and trees. Order seeds at monticello.org.

BARTRAM'S GARDEN
Colonial-era botanists John Bartram and his son William's elaborate Philadelphia nursery catered to the likes of Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. The Bartrams popularized many of North America's most beloved natives, including the magnolia and the rhododendron. Go to bartramsgarden.org to order seeds.

MOUNT VERNON
The grounds of our first president's plantation in Alexandria, Virginia, have been restored to look just as they did when George Washington lived there and feature 18th-century favorites such as foxglove, larkspur, and artichoke. Find the estate's hand-harvested seeds for sale at mountvernon.org.

Tried-and-true cleaning products

Many old-school cleansers boast more than eye-catching retro packaging and formulas that have stood the test of time—they also come with great stories of American ingenuity. Here's how a few of these products became the classics we know and still love today. —M. BRUNNER

★ BON AMI ★

In the late 19th century, scouring soaps were made with powdered quartz. When the quartz was mined, the mineral feldspar was discarded as trash. J.T. Robertson saw an opportunity to use the softer and cheaper feldspar to make a less abrasive cleanser, and in 1886, Bon Ami was born. The product's popularity grew thanks to the little chick on the label and one of the earliest successful advertising slogans, "Hasn't scratched yet!"

★ DR. BRONNER'S MAGIC SOAPS ★

After leaving Germany in 1929, soap-maker Emanuel Bronner settled in Milwaukee. In 1948, he started to market an old family recipe for peppermint soap. It wasn't until the 1960s that the soap gained in popularity, in part due to its eco-friendliness and its quirky, type-covered labels with quotes by Thomas Paine, Abraham Lincoln, and others. More than 60 years later, the business is run by the fourth and fifth generations of soap-making Bronners.

★ BRILLO ★

Aluminum cookware quickly replaced cast iron in the early 1900s, but the coal-fired stoves of the day blackened pots. A Brooklyn, New York, cookware peddler and jeweler discovered that a mix of jewelers' rouge, soap, and fine wool cut through the sooty residue. Originally, the steel-wool pads came with a separate cake of soap. It wasn't until the 1930s that Brillo developed the method for putting the soap right into the pads.

★ JUBILEE ★

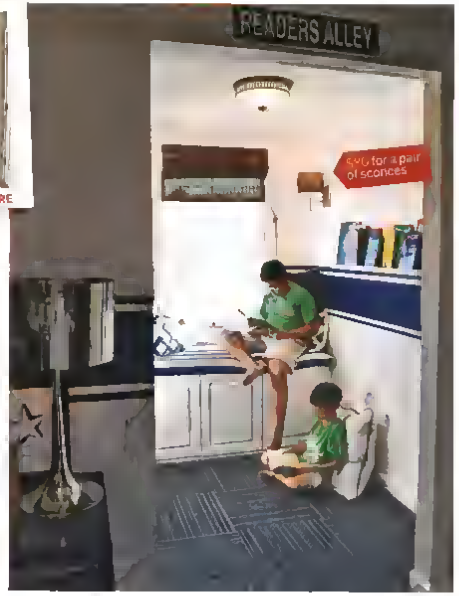
When the original Johnson's Jubilee Kitchen Wax hit the market in the early 1950s, the creamy blend of detergent and wax was touted as a big time-saver, combining two steps—cleaning and polishing—into one. It quickly acquired an enthusiastic following. Malco products recently licensed Jubilee from the SC Johnson company and relaunched it to a flood of positive consumer feedback.

PHOTOS: (MONTICELLO) BOBBY MAYES/LAMPO; (BON AMI) © VUELICO; (BRILLO) © AMY (CLEANSERS, SEED PACKETS) WENDELL T. WEBBER

A reading nook for $539

Graphic stripes and a cushy window seat turn an odd space into a cozy retreat

BEFORE



BEFORE Adding a dormer for egress left an awkward, unfinished space. **AFTER** A window seat and carpet tiles invite the couple's sons to curl up with books, while a ceiling-mount fixture and sconces keep things bright. Wall stripes add color and tie the bedroom and nook together.

THE PROJECT TALLY

Painted the room white with navy stripes	$109
Finished the floor with carpet tiles found at a big-box store	$98
Created a bench from laundry cabinets and stock lumber	$110
Topped the bench with pine covered with discounted foam and on-sale fabric	$68
Had the contractor who installed the dormer also wire two new sconces and an overhead fixture at no extra cost	$130
Mounted four floating display shelves	$24
TOTAL	**$539**

IN A BLANK SPACE, there's a lot of room for improvement. Just ask Vel Barrucatro-Criste and her husband, Gerson Criste. After having a contractor add a windowed egress dormer in an over the garage room for their teenage son, they were left with an odd, unfinished nook. Vel saw it as an opportunity to create a quiet reading alcove as part of an overall update of the bedroom. She painted both spaces white with an accent rail of bold navy stripes to create a cohesive look. To keep things cozy underfoot, Gerson installed striped carpet tiles over the nook's plywood subfloor. Then he built a storage bench from prepainted cabinets, using stock lumber to fill in gaps at the back and sides and painting the exposed sides white so that they blend in. Vel made a seat for the bench by stapling fabric-topped foam to sheet pine that her husband had cut to size. Gerson installed floating shelves to display some of their son's books; the rest tuck neatly away in the storage bench. Sconces flank the window seat, and a flush-mount fixture hangs overhead, providing plenty of light for nighttime reading. Now the nook is her 13-year-old's favorite place to unwind. "He has a whole room to hang out in, but whenever he has friends over, they're always in that space," says Vel. "They love it!" —MEGAN BAKER

Flag hanging dos and don'ts

There's more to consider when hanging this patriotic symbol than the hardware you choose. In 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed into law the Flag Code, which states the proper guidelines for displaying the American flag. Treat Old Glory with respect by following these rules.

> ***Orient it correctly.*** Whether hung vertically or horizontally, the flag should be positioned with the field of stars at the top left. If it's displayed in a window, always remember that the viewer is considered to be outside.

> ***Leave a light on.*** Traditionally, the flag is to be displayed outdoors only from sunrise to sunset, but it can stay there 24 hours a day if it's properly illuminated. To meet this requirement, try solar lights that charge throughout the day and shine bright at night, or a garden spotlight set on a timer.

> ***Consider the weather.*** The flag shouldn't be subjected to harsh wind or to rain or snow unless it's made of an all-weather material. Choose one made from synthetic fibers, like nylon or polyester, that will stand up to the elements.

> ***Retire it when it's worn.*** If your flag is showing signs of wear and tear, it should be disposed of in a dignified way, traditionally by burning. You can also contact your local VFW or American Legion; both groups offer to retire your flag in a respectful ceremony.

—KATELIN HILL

Battle of the look-alike bugs

Don't be fooled by the similar appearances of these insects—some of them can do serious damage. Knowing a few key differences can help you separate the nicer ones from the nasties.

Spined soldier bugs are good guys, feeding on insects that eat up your garden, while in addition to being malodorous, marmorated stinkbugs chow down on veggies and fruits. To tell one from the other, look for the extra pointy shoulders the spined soldier bug sports and the brown and white stripes on the stinkbug's lower half and antennae.

While they both feed on flower nectar, only bees make honey. Aggression-prone wasps, including yellow jackets, will just leave you with a nasty sting. Look for fuzzy bodies on honeybees; yellow jackets have sharper stripes. Beware of nests in the ground or out in the open—they're likely wasps. Honeybees prefer hollow spaces.

Both ants and termites go through a winged phase in their life cycle, but you can spot the ants by their narrow waists, bent antennae, and noticeably shorter wings. It's not uncommon for carpenter ants to be found out in the open, especially after sunset; most termites avoid light and are rarely seen outside their colony.

A crane fly looks like a giant mosquito, but it's not nearly as pesky. Unlike bloodthirsty adult female mosquitoes, which are only too happy to feed on you, crane flies prefer to feed on decomposing organic matter. —M. BAKER

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY, PAGE 96

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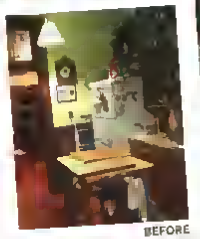
HOMEGROWN REDO

Family affair

A busy household gets its longed-for cooking-and-quality-time space with a little help from close relations

BY DEBORAH BALDWIN • PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEN GUTMAKER



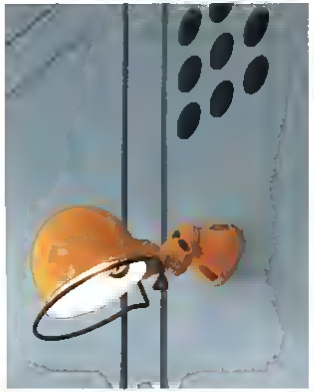
BEFORE

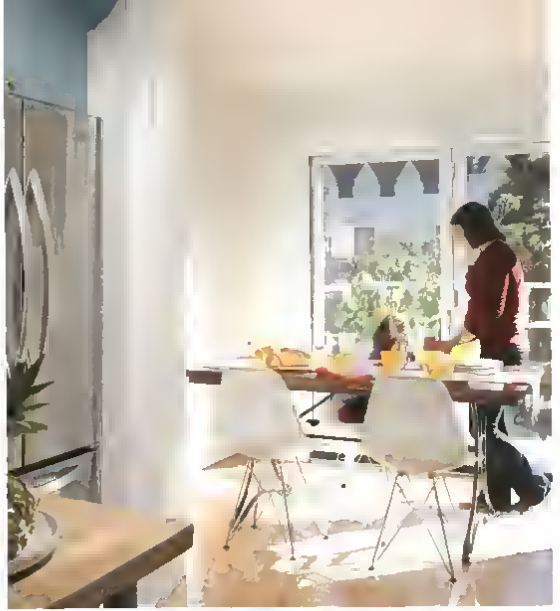
BEFORE The avocado-and-oak scheme herked back to 1970s San Francisco. **AFTER** Opened up to the sun, the galley kitchen is now blue and white and bright all over, with an existing vintage Wedgewood stove as its centerpiece.

HAVING A DESIGNER in the family is always helpful, and so is having a handy dad—or two. When Elizabeth and Jeremy Noble got ready to gut the top-floor kitchen in their San Francisco rowhouse, they knew just whom to call, starting with Cousin Chad, a.k.a. designer Chad DeWitt. DeWitt helped the couple, the parents of two young girls, reinvent the space and its adjacent sunroom to capture more light and create a more functional, easy-flowing feel. After a crew opened up the walls to replumb and rewire and moved an awkward staircase from the sunroom to the deck, Jeremy's dad offered to upgrade IKEA cabinet boxes with custom doors and drawer fronts, and Elizabeth's dad volunteered to paint them, using a brush in homage to the home's 19th-century roots. "We desperately needed a dishwasher," says Elizabeth, "but we had no desire to replace the Wedgewood stove." DeWitt ran ducts for a vent liner and an existing stove pipe through a new ceiling. Skylights and wider passageways brighten the space, and the sunroom is now a breakfast room. "We can fold back the glass doors to the deck," says Elizabeth, "and have room for the whole family."

Double-height cabinets accessed by a ladder on wheels maximize wall space. *Library ladder: Rockler*

Rows of O s, cutouts accented by a jaunty sconce, add detail while piping music from hidden speakers. *Sconce: Jieldé*





Homeowner Elizabeth Noble fields a breakfast order from Evelyn, 4. Cork flooring unites the kitchen and eating area, which opens to a rebuilt deck. *Refrigerator: KitchenAid. Folding doors: LeCantina. Table: Cost Plus*

PAINT YOUR CABINETS To find expert tips and complete how-to instructions, blipp this page or go to **thisoldhouse.com/jul2014**

Cabinet doors made by homeowner Jeremy Noble's dad, Rick Farabaugh (yes, Jeremy took his wife's name), include a pair that displays cookbooks through frosted glass.

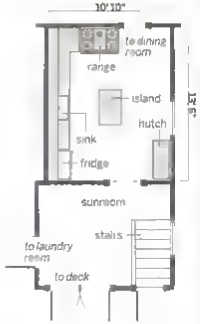
homeowner tip ELIZABETH NOBLE, SAN FRANCISCO

"Be sure to check Craigslist for appliances. We nabbed our nearly new fridge for a third of its list price."

More custom doors dress up the pantry unit, while a paint job by Elizabeth's dad, Jim Noble, reinforces its freestanding furniture look. When not in use, the library ladder tucks between the pantry end wall.

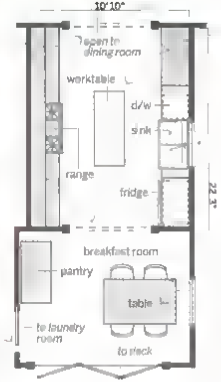
before

Narrow openings cut off the kitchen and stairs are into the adjoining sunroom.



after

Relocated stairs, wider openings, and a new layout mean more light and function in 245 square feet



1] Widened the opening to the dining room for better circulation and a clear sight line to the deck.

2] Cut a wider opening to the breakfast room uniting the spaces and giving the kitchen a more spacious feel.

3] Replaced the laundry room entry with a space-saving pocket door.

4] Replaced the island with a custom worktable just 21 inches wide, improving flow.

5] Put the sink under a sunny replacement window and added a much-needed dishwasher.

6] Moved the stairs to the deck, opening up space in the former sunroom for a table and pantry.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANN ANTONUCCI

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY, PAGE 96

SLICE OF AMERICANA

Patriotic porch

Red accents and classic wicker make this outdoor room a real conversation starter

BY MEGAN BAKER • PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN VANDEN BRINK

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE whiling away the afternoon on a front porch, a lemonade in your hand and a breeze in your hair, waving to passersby and maybe even inviting them on up for a cool drink of their own. That's the idea behind this cottage-style front porch in Habersham, South Carolina, the creation of interior designer Linda Woodrum. The centerpiece, of course, is a cozy conversation set made of traditional wicker that's plush with plenty of cushions for lounging. Striped red pillows add an extra punch that echoes the clapboard-sided home's red shutters. A tray of sodas—with a cooler full of extras—means guests are taken care of, and a folksy birdhouse and a basket of candles add a personal touch. To bring this charming look to your porch or patio, read on

jar vases

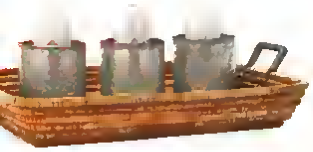
Filled with colorful flowers, ceramic mason jar–style containers add updated cottage style. $10 (small) and $23 (large); fishseddy.com

shutter dress-ups

Colonial-style holdbacks keep working shutters—painted here in Benjamin Moore's Caliente—from banging in the breeze. $22 each, signaturehardware.com

retro cooler

Keep a stylish beverage container stocked and at the ready so that you can invite friends to stop by and stay awhile. $159; wayfair.com

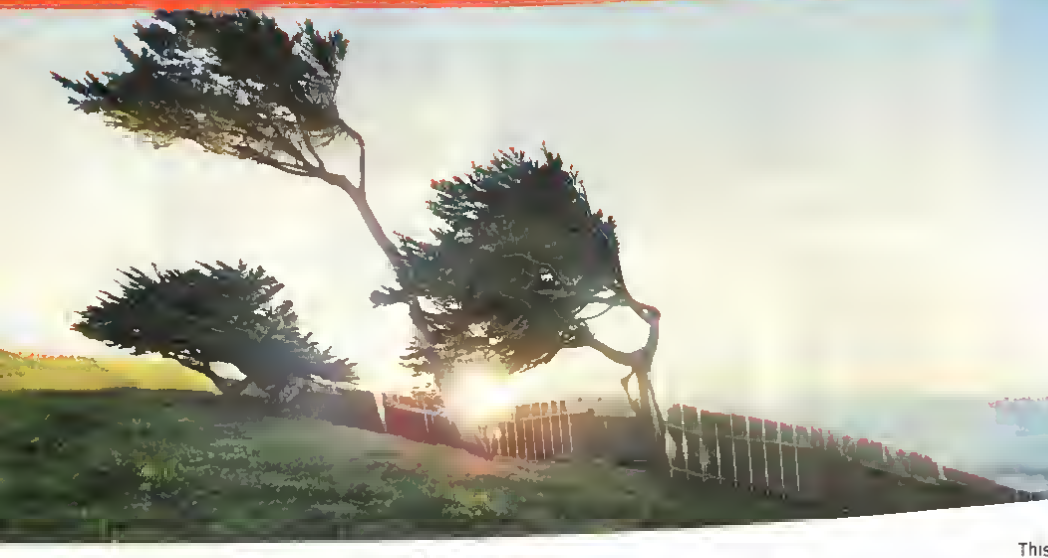


tray and candles

Tall hurricanes safeguard flames from the breeze—and a woven tray corrals them for easy lifting. Hurricanes, $24 each; arecahome.com. Tray, $69; potterybarn.com

PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): COURTESY OF CO.; COURTESY OF CO.; COURTESY OF CO.;

For people with a higher risk of stroke due to
Atrial Fibrillation (AFib) not caused by a heart valve problem



I focused on finding something better than warfarin.

NOW I TAKE ELIQUIS® (apixaban) FOR 3 GOOD REASONS:

1. ELIQUIS reduced the risk of stroke better than warfarin.
2. ELIQUIS had less major bleeding than warfarin.
3. Unlike warfarin, there's no routine blood testing.

ELIQUIS and other blood thinners increase the risk of bleeding which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death.

Ask your doctor if ELIQUIS is right for you.

ELIQUIS® (apixaban) is a prescription medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation, a type of irregular heartbeat, not caused by a heart valve problem.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

- **Do not stop taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation without talking to the doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke.** ELIQUIS may need to be stopped, prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.
- **ELIQUIS can cause bleeding, which can be serious,** and rarely may lead to death.
- **You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and** take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, such as aspirin, NSAIDs, warfarin (COUMADIN®), heparin, SSRIs or SNRIs, and other blood thinners. **Tell your doctor about all medicines, vitamins and supplements you take.** While taking ELIQUIS, you may bruise more easily and it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop.
- Get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding:
  - unexpected bleeding, or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as unusual bleeding from the gums; nosebleeds that happen often, or menstrual or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
  - bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
  - red, pink, or brown urine; red or black stools (looks like tar)
  - coughing up or vomiting blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds
  - unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain; headaches, feeling dizzy or weak
- **ELIQUIS is not for patients with artificial heart valves.**
- **Spinal or epidural blood clots or bleeding (hematoma).** People who take ELIQUIS, and have medicine injected into their spinal and epidural area, or have a spinal puncture have a risk of forming a blood clot that can cause long-term or permanent loss of the ability to move (paralysis).

This risk is higher if, an epidural catheter is placed in your back to give you certain medicine, you take NSAIDs or blood thinners, you have a history of difficult or repeated epidural or spinal punctures. Tell your doctor right away if you have tingling, numbness, or muscle weakness, especially in your legs and feet.

- **Before you take ELIQUIS,** tell your doctor if you have: kidney or liver problems, any other medical condition, or ever had bleeding problems. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or plan to become pregnant or breastfeed.
- **Do not take ELIQUIS if you** currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding or have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS. A reaction to ELIQUIS can cause hives, rash, itching, and possibly trouble breathing. Get medical help right away if you have sudden chest pain or chest tightness, have sudden swelling of your face or tongue, have trouble breathing, wheezing, or feeling dizzy or faint.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see additional Important Product Information on the adjacent page.

Individual results may vary.

Visit ELIQUIS.COM
or call 1-855-ELIQUIS

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Eliquis®
(apixaban) tablets

IMPORTANT FACTS about ELIQUIS® (apixaban) tablets

℞ ONLY

The information below does not take the place of talking with your healthcare professional. Only your healthcare professional knows the specifics of your condition and how ELIQUIS may fit into your overall therapy. Talk to your healthcare professional if you have any questions about ELIQUIS (pronounced EL-eh kwiss)

What is the most important information I should know about ELIQUIS (apixaban)?

For people taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation. Do not stop taking ELIQUIS without talking to the doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke. ELIQUIS may need to be stopped prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.

ELIQUIS can cause bleeding which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death. This is because ELIQUIS is a blood thinner medicine that reduces blood clotting.

You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding such as aspirin, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (called NSAIDs), warfarin (COUMADIN®), heparin, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs) and other medicines to help prevent or treat blood clots.

Tell your doctor if you take any of these medicines. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one listed above.

While taking ELIQUIS:

- you may bruise more easily
- it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop

Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding when taking ELIQUIS:

- unexpected bleeding, or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as
  - unusual bleeding from the gums
  - nosebleeds that happen often
  - menstrual bleeding or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
- bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
- red, pink, or brown urine
- red or black stools (looks like tar)
- cough up blood or blood clots
- vomit blood or your vomit looks like coffee grounds
- unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain
- headaches, feeling dizzy or weak

ELIQUIS (apixaban) is not for patients with artificial heart valves.

Spinal or epidural blood clots or bleeding (hematoma). People who take a blood thinner medicine (anticoagulant) like ELIQUIS, and have medicine injected into their spinal and epidural area, or have a spinal puncture have a risk of forming a blood clot that can cause long-term or permanent loss of the ability to move (paralysis). Your risk of developing a spinal or epidural blood clot is higher if:

- a thin tube called an epidural catheter is placed in your back to give you certain medicine
- you take NSAIDs or a medicine to prevent blood from clotting
- you have a history of difficult or repeated epidural or spinal punctures
- you have a history of problems with your spine or have had surgery on your spine

If you take ELIQUIS and receive spinal anesthesia or have a spinal puncture, your doctor should watch you closely for symptoms of spinal or epidural blood clots or bleeding. Tell your doctor right away if you have tingling, numbness or muscle weakness, especially in your legs and feet.

What is ELIQUIS?

ELIQUIS is a prescription medicine used to

- reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation
- reduce the risk of forming a blood clot in the legs and lungs of people who have just had hip or knee replacement surgery

It is not known if ELIQUIS is safe and effective in children.

Who should not take ELIQUIS (apixaban)?

Do not take ELIQUIS if you:

- currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding
- have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS. Ask your doctor if you are not sure

What should I tell my doctor before taking ELIQUIS?

Before you take ELIQUIS, tell your doctor if you

- have kidney or liver problems
- have any other medical condition
- have ever had bleeding problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if ELIQUIS will harm your unborn baby
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if ELIQUIS passes into your breast milk. You and your doctor should decide if you will take ELIQUIS or breastfeed. You should not do both

Tell all of your doctors and dentists that you are taking ELIQUIS. They should talk to the doctor who prescribed ELIQUIS for you, before you have **any** surgery, medical or dental procedure.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some of your other medicines may affect the way ELIQUIS works. Certain medicines may increase your risk of bleeding or stroke when taken with ELIQUIS.

How should I take ELIQUIS?

Take ELIQUIS exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Take ELIQUIS twice every day with or without food, and do not change your dose or stop taking it unless your doctor tells you to. If you miss a dose of ELIQUIS, take it as soon as you remember, and do not take more than one dose at the same time. **Do not run out of ELIQUIS (apixaban). Refill your prescription before you run out.** When leaving the hospital following hip or knee replacement, be sure that you will have ELIQUIS available to avoid missing any doses. **If you are taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation, stopping ELIQUIS may increase your risk of having a stroke.**

What are the possible side effects of ELIQUIS?

- See **"What is the most important information I should know about ELIQUIS?"**
- ELIQUIS can cause a skin rash or severe allergic reaction. Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following symptoms:
  - chest pain or tightness
  - swelling of your face or tongue
  - trouble breathing or wheezing
  - feeling dizzy or faint

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all of the possible side effects of ELIQUIS. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

This is a brief summary of the most important information about ELIQUIS. For more information, talk with your doctor or pharmacist, call 1-855-ELIQUIS (1-855-354-7847), or go to www.ELIQUIS.com

Manufactured by:
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
Princeton, New Jersey 08543 USA

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March 2014
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MADE IN THE U.S.A.

American-pottery pitchers

These shapely vessels boast as much history as they do style

BY MEGAN BAKER • PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK LUND

LONG BEFORE Tupperware, there was stoneware, nonporous vessels made from clay fired at high temperatures and salt-glazed for a smooth surface. Tucked away in cellars and kitchens, stoneware crocks stored everything from syrups to pickled vegetables—and thanks to rich clay deposits found nationwide, stoneware potteries became common features. As time went on and ceramic techniques evolved, American potteries became famous for everything from handmade wall tile to mass-produced dishware. These pitchers showcase the art and industry of nine potteries with deep roots, whether because they've been around for decades or feature designs with a home-grown history. Take your pick.

1, 2> Bauer Pottery
LOS ANGELES
Bauer was known for colorful dishware and garden pot designs from the 1880s through the 1960s. Revived in 1958, it now issues castings of original releases.
1_ The Russel Wright American Modern line reproduces classic modernist pieces by the designer circa 1939 to 1959. $90; bauerpottery.com
2_ Bauer's namesake fine features its colorful 1930s and 1940s releases (this piece debuted in 1936). $68

STYLING: HELEN GUNN FOR PAT BATES + ASSOCIATES

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4> Louisville Stoneware

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

The Louisville Stoneware pottery has flourished under several different names and owners since it was established in 1815. The hand-painted [illegible] design on this cast pitcher was created by artist Edith Ellis in the 1940s, making it the pottery's oldest pattern still in production. $55; louisvillestoneware.com

5> Bennington Potters

BENNINGTON, VERMONT

The Bennington area was a hotbed of pottery manufacture from the Revolutionary War era until the early 1900s. Inspired to keep the art alive, young potter David Gil founded Bennington Potters in 1948 to carry on the tradition. This cast pitcher, based on 19th-century designs, has a matte green glaze. $50; benningtonpotters.com

6> Red Wing Stoneware Co.

RED WING, MINNESOTA

This pottery originally ran from 1877 to 1967. Revived in 1934, it now replicates its early salt- and zinc-glazed releases. That even includes mimicking the original clay once locally sourced, with a blend of American clays. This zinc-glazed cherry-band pitcher is a slip-cast replica of a 1914 piece, complete with the iconic Red Wing logo. $29; redwingstoneware.com

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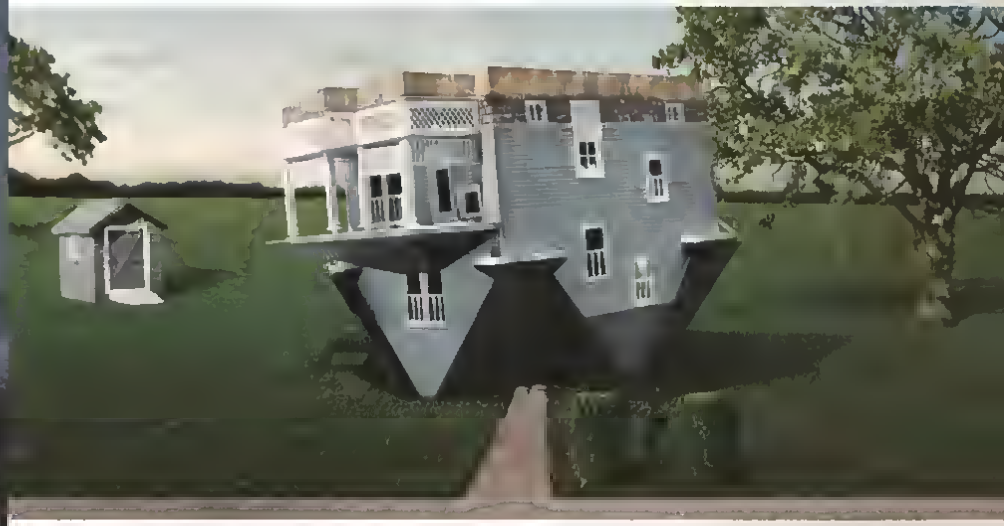

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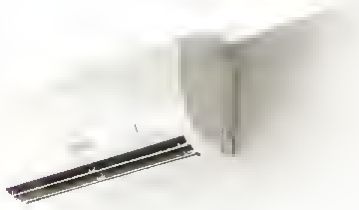

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7> Heath Ceramics
SAUSALITO, CALIFORNIA
Founded in 1948, Heath creates hallmarks of mid-century design. All the lines, from tableware to house numbers, are made in the original factory. The company uses the unique clay formula developed by founder Edith Heath; it allows for an energy-saving, low-temperature kiln firing that results in pottery as durable as porcelain. $72; heathceramics.com

8> Shearwater Pottery
OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI
This Southern pottery, operated by the same family that founded it in 1928, employs the same mica-glaze technique created back then to give pieces a multi-layered style. This hand-thrown pitcher in Spring Green is glazed using a three-part process—dipped twice, then sprayed—for a mercurial, opalescent look. $50; shearwaterpottery.com

9> KleinReid
QUEENS, NEW YORK
Though KleinReid is a relative newcomer, only established in 1993, these porcelain pitchers bear the mark of artistic legend Eva Zeisel, with whom they were designed in 2002 as part of an eight-piece line. The pitchers are created in the late artist's signature curvy style. Their yin-yang forms allow them to fit together, taking up less space when displayed on the counter. $315 per pair; kleinreid.com

10> Homer Laughlin China Co.
NEWELL, WEST VIRGINIA
Fiestaware was born in 1936 with a range of Art Deco–inspired pieces featuring concentric circles and bold colors, such as this turquoise, first released in 1937. The line was discontinued in the 1970s but made a comeback in 1986 with many original designs. Now the company releases a new color every year. $24; fiestafactorydirect.com

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SLICE OF AMERICANA

Stars and stripes

Give a room a lift with a stylized compass rose and lots of ocean blues

BY DEBORAH BALDWIN + PHOTOGRAPH BY JEAN ALLSOPP

NO ONE KNOWS exactly when the compass was invented, or when its north, south, east, and west indicators were subdivided with a sun-embracing design of petal-like points, giving rise to the term *compass rose*. But in time this motif jumped from sailing ships to inlaid floors and even quilts, becoming as much a part of Americana as it is a navigational tool that dates back to at least the 14th century.

In the photo at right, a compass-rose medallion rimmed in red is set among rug like blue and white stripes. While the eight-point star punctuates the base of a spiral staircase here, it could also anchor a foyer or even a breakfast table. A faint *N*, for north, can be seen above the rim, but the updated design, with facets in white, navy, and ocean blue, is less literal than a classic compass rose, lending energy and graphic punch to an otherwise restrained color scheme. Stencil versions of the compass rose can be found online, but for the best match to this design, print out our surprisingly simple template and how-to instructions at thisoldhouse.com/jul2014. Then let the design point the way to a place worthy of this patriotic flourish. ■

FIVE MORE FLOORS
Put some pattern underfoot. To find the step-by-steps for five unique designs, flip this page or go to **thisoldhouse.com/jul2014**

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SLICE OF AMERICANA

State flowers to grow anywhere

Show off your national pride with these 10 favorites

BY SUSAN HEEGER

AS AMERICAN as fireworks in July, official state flowers honor the natural diversity of our country. The idea dates back to 1893, when, for a national garland at the Chicago World's Fair, each state was asked to nominate a floral emblem. The sunflower was a shoo-in for Kansas, suggesting "the majesty of a golden future." But debates raged in other states as they struggled for consensus on a single bloom. In some close contests, legislators turned to botanists to break a tie. Or they consulted schoolchildren, who, in Colorado, chose the Rocky Mountain columbine and, in Rhode Island, the violet. Most of these picks are common natives that bloom on summer roadsides or are familiar transplants, comfortably at home in their adopted state. Many are also such great all-around garden plants that—no matter where you live—they'll thrive with little fuss, adding notes of carefree Americana to your landscape.

Here, we present 10 of the best and easiest, along with growing tips and recommended varieties.

No bloom holds more titles than the rose. It's an official emblem for New York, Georgia, North Dakota, Iowa, and Oklahoma, as well as the national flower of the U.S.A.

PHOTO: JOHN KS

1> Kansas
SUNFLOWER
Helianthus annuus

Fast-growing, happy-faced blooms with edible seeds, sunflowers supplied Native Americans with food and oil and later sustained settlers along the Santa Fe Trail. Their nodding roadside gold is a hallmark of Kansas summers, but their drama is for everyone. Plant the self-sowing annual from seed after the last spring frost in sunny, well-drained soil, and water moderately; stake tall growers in windy spots. Giant varieties include the 12-foot yellow heirloom Mammoth Russian (shown) and the 15-foot golden Paul Bunyan, while Velvet Queen is a 4-foot dwarf variety with orange-red bicolored blooms.

2> Tennessee
IRIS
Iris

In 1919, Tennessee chose the wild passionflower but in 1933 decided to also adopt the iris and designated it the official "cultivated" bloom 40 years later. This floral icon assumes a range of sizes, forms, and colors. Bearded irises can reach a height of 4 feet and rebloom; Siberians takes the most cold and drought; Japanese and Louisiana like moister ground. Plant this sun-loving perennial in late summer, water it well, and fertilize in spring and after blooms fade. Standouts include bearded almost-black Superstition and the Siberian yellow and white Butter-and-Sugar (shown).

3> Texas
TEXAS BLUEBONNET
Lupinus spp

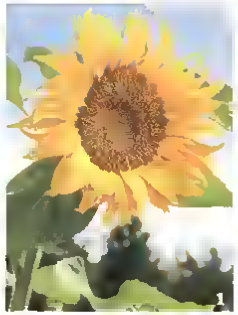
The bluebonnet was officially designated in 1901 and later immortalized in song. Today five homegrown species of annual and perennial blue bonnets are recognized as the state's flower, and they carpet springtime fields and highway verges. Water seeds only on the day of planting, and water transplants sparingly, repeating only when soil is dry an inch down. Though the Texas native (shown) is commonly deep violet, other cultivars include some intriguing non-blue colors like cream Noble Maiden and maroon and white Alamo Fire.

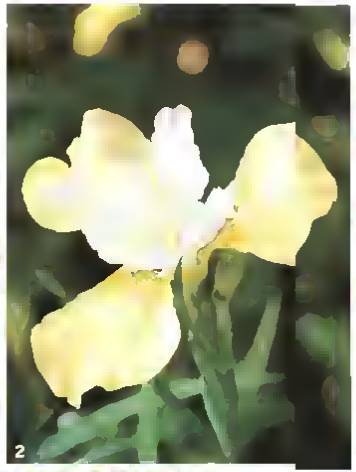
4> South Dakota
PASQUE FLOWER
Pulsatilla patens

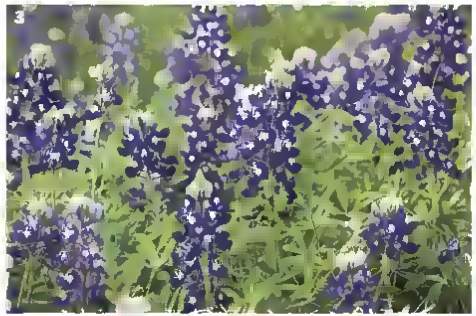
Even before winter has quite left South Dakota, this prairie flower lifts its bloom above the snow, signaling spring's approach. Such dogged optimism in the face of lingering bleakness must have recommended the so-called prairie crocus to the state's legislature back in 1903. A buttercup relative that grows wild across America, especially at higher altitudes, this perennial likes dry, sandy soil and full sun and is fairly drought tolerant. It grows from seed sown in fall, blooms in shades of violet to white, and produces dramatic seed heads before going dormant in summer heat.

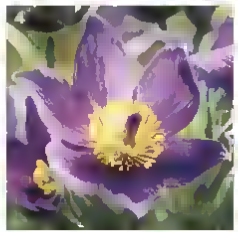
5> New York
ROSE
Rosa

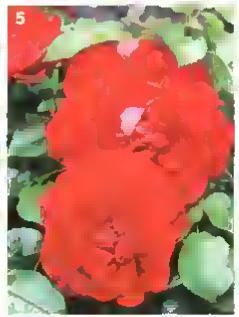
After New York schoolchildren singled out this classic perennial (also our national flower) with specific cultivars being the picks of four other states), the state claimed any rose, wild or cultivated, as its own. The group ranges from mini shrubs to towering vines, all requiring at least 5 to 6 hours of sun a day, well-drained soil, and good air circulation. A local rose society can suggest varieties suited to your climate. Plant in fall or early spring; feed until midsummer; keep soil moist; and mulch beds for winter. Of the 35 rose classes, hybrid teas are America's most popular; regional natives, heirlooms predating 1867, and new disease-resistant varieties, such as the Easy Elegance series (shown), are easiest to grow, while rugosas are the hardiest.

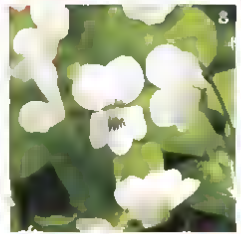


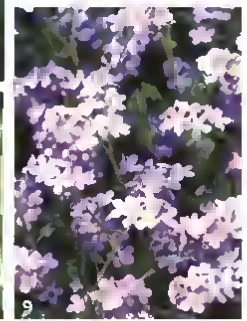


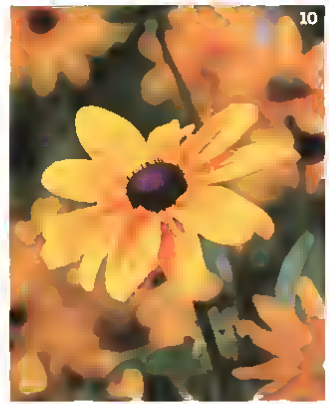












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DON'T SEE YOUR STATE BLOOM? To find them all, blipp this page or go to **thisoldhouse.com/jul2014**

6 California
CALIFORNIA POPPY
Eschscholzia californica

By the 1700s, when Spanish sailors dubbed poppy-blanketed California the "land of fire," indigenous peoples had long valued the wildflower for food and medicine. Emblematic of the Golden State, it's a drought-tolerant, easy-to-sow perennial. In mild climates and as a winning annual elsewhere, blooming in spring sunshine and closing at night. Sow seeds in well-drained soil and pull most plants once they've faded, but let some go to seed. The most familiar California poppy is orange-gold, but selections range widely. Carmine King has red ruffles with white centers. Mission Bells is a semi-double mix of hues (shown), and Thai Silk Lemon Blush is yellow cream.

7 Colorado
ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLUMBINE
Aquilegia caerulea

Blue stands for sky, white for snow, and yellow for the state's gold-mining history in this hardy perennial, which got the Colorado children's vote in 1899. Later, "Where the Columbines Grow" became the state song, enhancing the appeal of the fragrant wildlife magnet. If you sow seeds in fall, the plants sprout in spring but take another year to bloom. For a head start, plant seedlings in spring; keep them moist; and deadhead flowers to encourage more. Though the Colorado native (shown) is the familiar blue and white, cultivars include dwarf variety Red Hobbit and multihued Origami Mix.

8 Rhode Island
VIOLET
Viola sororia

Picked by schoolchildren in 1897, this East Coast native didn't get the state's formal nod until 1968. By then Wisconsin, Illinois, and New Jersey had also claimed it. Its purple blooms erupt in spring, and its heart-shaped leaves last all summer, carpeting the ground along woodland walks and shrub borders. A prolific self-seeding perennial that tolerates clay soils, it's happiest in partial sun and moist, well-drained beds. Plant it in spring or fall from seed or transplants. For variations on the violet theme, look for Freckles, pale with purple speckles, or the snowy white Albiflora (shown).

9 Alaska
FORGET-ME-NOT
Myosotis alpestris

Before statehood, Alaska's territorial legislature picked the wild forget-me-not as its bloom, calling it "the emblem of the pioneers upon the rugged trail." In the bill's descriptive marginalia: With its mounding habit and flocks of true-blue spring and summer flowers, it's a charming filler around bulbs and in rock gardens or containers. Fragrant at night, the self-sowing perennial thrives in full to dappled sun and moist, tree-draining soil. The cultivar Ultramarine (shown) has a more compact habit than the species, growing only 6 inches high and a foot across.

10 Maryland
BLACK-EYED SUSAN
Rudbeckia hirta

Native east of the Rockies, this member of the sunflower family was thriving throughout Maryland when the state's general assembly proposed it as the official bloom. Sun loving and drought adapted, the 3-foot tall biennial freely self-sows, flowers through summer and fall, and draws butterflies in droves. Direct-sow seeds or transplant seedlings after the last spring frost, and look for lively hybrids. Indian Summer (shown) has enormous gold flowers, and Prairie Sun flaunts bicolored petals and pale green centers. ■

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PIECE OF HISTORY

Fixing an awkward facade

Reworking the entry and upgrading the windows add character to a bare-bones box

BY ANN E. STRATTON + ILLUSTRATION BY DRAWGATE INC.

"I LOVE THE CHARM of an old house," says Richard McDermott, who recently bought this 114-year-old fixer-upper in Danbury, Connecticut, with his wife, Kimberley. "But this one desperately needs more detail." To help the couple recapture some of the home's turn-of-the-century charm, we asked architect Elizabeth Jahn in nearby Westport for ideas.

"I'd start with the entrance," says Jahn, who suggests downsizing the enclosed entry porch bumpout by half, preserving some of its storage, centering the front door, and extending a columned portico in front of it. "This creates an inviting transition between the house and street," she says. Adjusting the placement of the windows, adding one, and enhancing them with shutters creates symmetry. "It's just what the house was missing," says Richard. "We can't wait to get started." ■

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PHOTOS: (PAINT SAMPLES) BRIAN HENDRYCHS/THE BIDDLE STUDIO

finishing touches

The tired two-story gets a style boost from these classic add-ons, all made in the U.S.A.

paint
Artichoke green accents perk up Whole Wheat beige siding for a soft earth-tone palette. Sherwin-Williams, $41 per gallon

brick
Hand-shaping and coal firing give clay bricks for the front walk an antique look. Old Carolina Brick Company: $5 per square foot

sconce
An onion lantern with a rich brass finish on each side of the front door suits the home's New England location. Carolina Lanterns: $377

shutter
These paint-ready red cedar shutters are built to last, with sturdy mortise-and-tenon construction. Shuttercraft: starting at $140 per pair

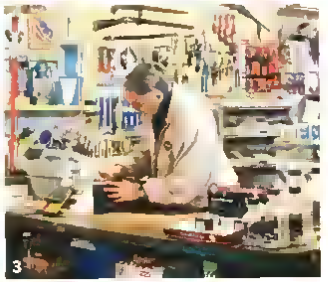
SLICE OF AMERICANA

Nuts and bolts and baby scales

Coast to coast, these five mom-and-pop hardware stores are every bit as unique as the communities they serve

BY PAUL HOPE

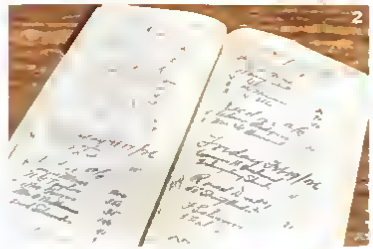
THE BEST hardware stores have exactly what you need to finish a project—and all the curious enticements to start three new ones. They've got the knowledgeable staff to help you get out the door but also the nail buckets, hinge rooms, apothecary drawers, and chock-a-block aisles to draw you back in with the lure of discovering a latch you've never imagined or a salvaged glass doorknob that hasn't turned a spindle in over a century. Their inventories surprise not only their customers but also their owners. Take Garber's, perhaps New York City's oldest hardware store, where co-owner Nathaniel Garber Schoen once opened a small cabinet to discover buckshot sold by his great-great-grandfather, from a time when you could hunt waterfowl in northern Manhattan. Like the other four stores here, Garber's has helped countless customers fix household problems—and also procrastinate, inviting them, as we are you, to browse all their enchanting wares

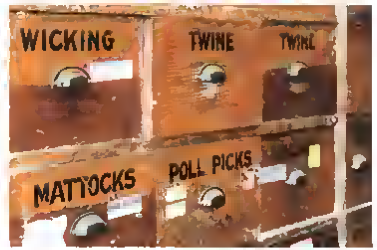


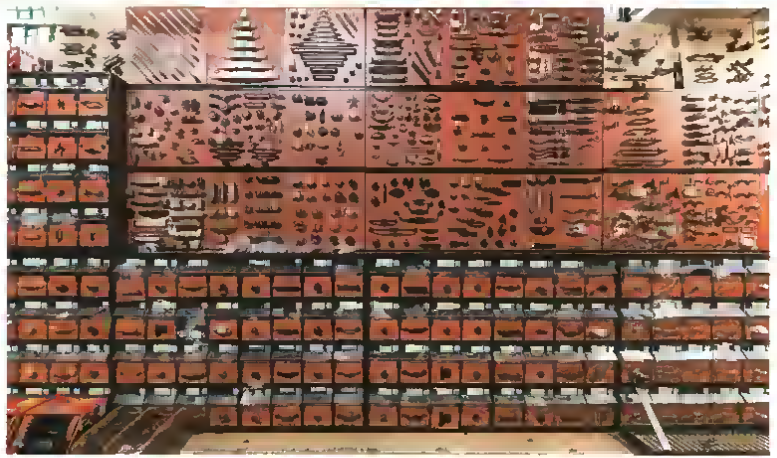
CHAGRIN HARDWARE

CHAGRIN FALLS, OHIO

1] Established in 1857, this town hub still occupies its same spot on North Main. 2] An octagonal chest organizes items such as brads and sash clips by ascending size. 3] Co-owner Steve Shutts, whose family bought the business in the 1920s, got his start here in the fourth grade. "My first job was cleaning a vintage wooden ice box," he says. "I did such a nice job Dad upped the price by $5." 4] As a rite of passage, generations of local families have photographed their newborn babies in the bulk scale; its accuracy continually mystifies county inspectors.



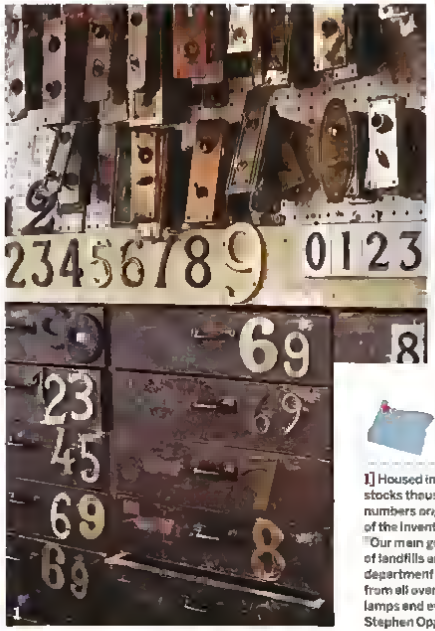




PLACERVILLE HARDWARE

PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA

1] Nestled in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains, the store opened in 1852 to cater to gold prospectors. The original countertop remains, featuring slots where customers could drop gold nuggets to be weighed and bartered for shovels, mining pans, and TNT, which they could pick up as a bundle on their way out, like a bag of ice at the supermarket. 2] Dozens of ledgers from the early days recall a time when every transaction was recorded by hand. 3] Many of the apothecary drawers contain the same items they held 160 years ago, though mattocks have been replaced by black zip ties. 4] Along with a palpable dose of nostalgia, the store offers a towering selection of hardware, including hundreds of knobs and handles.



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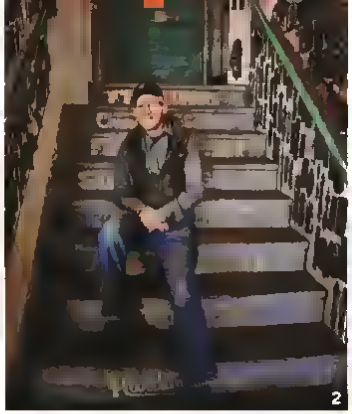
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HIPPO HARDWARE & TRADING COMPANY

PORTLAND, OREGON

1] Housed inside a former auto repair shop, the labyrinthine store stocks thousands of reclaimed items, including ceramic house numbers originally issued by the City of Portland. 2] About 30 percent of the inventory is new items, but as co-owner Steven Miller says, "Our main goal has always been keeping salvageable materials out of landfills and helping people solve problems." 3] The vast lighting department occupies a third of the space and attracts customers from all over—some as far away as Japan—looking to rebuild period lamps and even lighthouse lanterns. Behind the counter, co-owner Stephen Oppenheim rewires one of Hippo's 5,000 fixtures.

3

2

3

GARBER HARDWARE

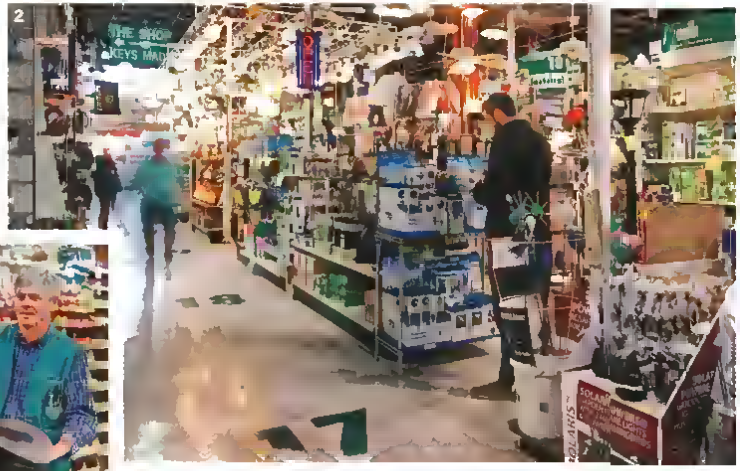
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

1] Since opening in 1884, the store has been able to adapt to the needs of an ever-changing neighborhood. It has sold paint to generations of local artists, including Roy Lichtenstein. 2] Fifth-generation co-owner Nathaniel Garber Schoen, right, is happy to stock obscure items for regular customers. "If something gets on our shelves, it'll pretty much stay there forever," he says. 3] When Garber's opened, horseshoes were likely a cornerstone of the business. It still sells them, but Schoen suspects today's customer uses them as decor—nobody comes in needing a complete set of four. ■

McGUCKIN HARDWARE

BOULDER, COLORADO

1] "We stock over one million fasteners, but I'm happy to sell you a single nail or screw," says store president Barry Hight, grandson of the founder. That spirit has helped the store maintain its focus on individual customers, even as it grew from a modest 2,000-square-foot shop in 1955 to the 60,000-square-foot emporium it is today. 2] The staff prides itself on knowing the ins and outs of McGuckin's 200,000-item inventory. 3] In the omnibus feed and floral department, you'll find birdhouses alongside supplies for agrarian operations of any size: chicken coops and beehive boxes for the urban farmer, as well as slop buckets and muck rakes for the rancher raising livestock.



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HOMEGROWN TALENT

Her work will floor you

Forget the dull linoleum floors of yore. Laurie Crogan's colorful inlaid designs take the eco-friendly material to new heights

BY JULIE TILSNER • PHOTOGRAPHS BY CORAL VON ZUMWALT

AFTER PEOPLE find out that the colorfully patterned floor they're standing on wasn't mass-produced by machine, often their first reaction is to squat down and run a palm across it. "When they realize these are pieces someone put together by hand, the whole experience is so palpable to them," inlay artist Laurie Crogan says with relish. "I love that."

The Southern California native started out as a goldsmith, and her attention to detail and miniaturist's eye are evident in her floors. Each one is as original and intricate as a piece of custom jewelry, whether it's a riff on a historic motif or something more contemporary.

Crogan discovered her muse in 1984 while working on the restoration of a house by modernist architect Rudolph Schindler, including the kitchen's linoleum floor, a simple black field inlaid with red squares. In the process, she fell in love with the material, a blend of natural linseed oil, cork dust, wood flour, pine resin, ground limestone, and pigments. "It's such a beautiful old material. So few things have kept that integrity and quality."

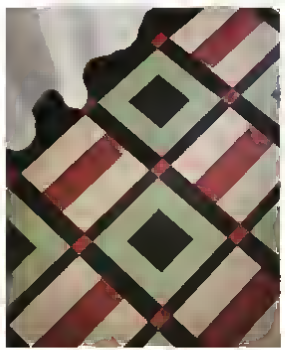
By her own account, each installation is different, but they all start the same way. First, Crogan meets with clients to discuss ideas, whether for a historic look or an original design. She draws a detailed color rendering of the installation to scale on paper. In many cases, a crew lays down linoleum sheet flooring or tiles, not gluing the areas where she'll inset her designs. Then she sets about hand-cutting the inlays.

Placing two pieces of linoleum tile in different colors on top of each other and taping them together, she traces a shape, cuts it out in both pieces at once, and switches the cutouts to create a pattern. More involved inlays require multiple cutouts and as many as six colors.

Each piece of inlay is cut using a Delta scroll saw fitted with jeweler's blades, a mat knife, and various fine hand tools. All the pieces are taped together. Then the shape of the inlay is scored into the floor, the outlined piece is cut out and removed, and the inlay is inserted and glued in place. Once the entire design is complete, five or six coats of acrylic sealer adhere the seam edges tightly together, increasing the floor's durability and water resistance is important, since linoleum is especially popular in kitchens and baths.

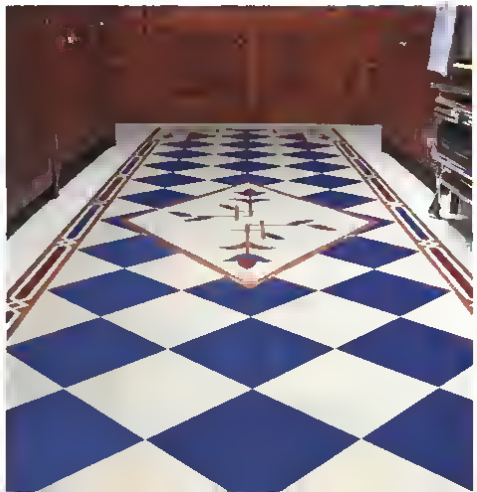
It's painstaking work, taking a month or more to complete an installation. "Nobody else is doing this," Crogan says. "It's too hard! But the people who love it, love it." Such meticulous craftsmanship doesn't come cheap, either. An installation can start at $6,000 for a small space with a few inlays and run to many thousands more, depending on the complexity of the design.

But linoleum fans who don't have deep pockets can still have an original Crogan underfoot. She's now selling linoleum rugs online in her Etsy shop, starting at $475 each. So in just a month, homeowners can receive their own piece of this updated, handcrafted art. ■



ABOVE: Laurie Crogan here with Pearl, her border collie mix, designs and cuts the inlays for her custom linoleum floors in her Los Angeles bungalow's sun-filled studio. LEFT: The colorful geometric pattern in her bath was cut out of sheet goods pieced together, and sealed to prevent water damage.

RIGHT: Crogan fits together the pieces of a linoleum rug. BELOW RIGHT: Each installation is mocked up to scale with colored pencils. BELOW LEFT: A scroll saw with a jeweler's blade cuts a design into two pieces of linoleum, one to be removed and the other inlaid.



LEFT: In a San Francisco kitchen, Crogan inlaid a white linoleum floor with a Craftsman-inspired runner made from linoleum tiles with an intricate border and a stylized botanical center detail.

TABLET BONUS!

Learn about three more American artisans in the TOH tablet edition. Get it at thisoldhouse.com/tablet

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This Old House

PIECE OF HISTORY

Build a gingerbread balustrade

Use a homemade jig to transform stock lumber into flatsawn balusters to dress up the front porch

BY PAUL HOPE • PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANTHONY TIEULI

COST $345 for two 68-inch runs
TIME Two days
DIFFICULTY Moderate. Making the jig requires a bit of artistry and cutting skill

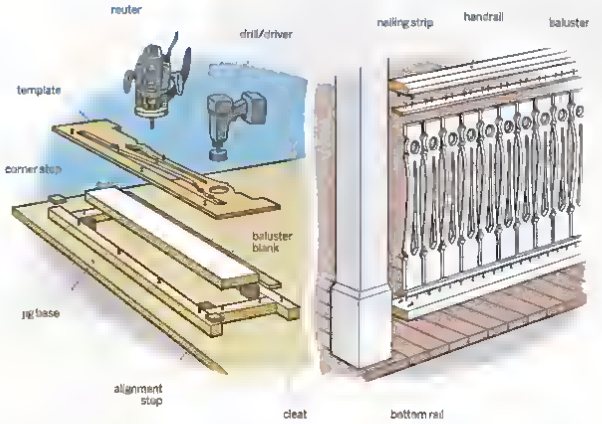
THERE ARE FEW THINGS as inviting as a front porch detailed with fancy millwork. But there's no need to break out the wood lathe to make one. You can fashion your own flatsawn balusters with a jigsaw and a router. The style is a period-perfect choice for Victorian-era houses, yet it allows for a range of designs. That made it a natural fit for the *This Old House* TV project house in Arlington, Massachusetts, where project architect David Whitney came up with this custom pattern for the porch of the 1872 Italianate house.

Follow along as *TOH* general contractor Tom Silva and master carpenter Norm Abram demonstrate how they used the pattern and a homemade jig to construct this ornate balustrade. Sure, they make it look easy—but they also give you everything you need to know to craft your own custom railing.

Balusters, pine 4×5, $34 for a 16-foot board. Handrail, chamfered Douglas fir 2×4, $2.50 per linear foot. Bottom rail, Douglas fir 2×4, $1.87 per linear foot, ericoal.com

DAY-TO-DAY TIMELINE

SATURDAY Build the jig, cut and prep the balusters (Steps 1–3).
SUNDAY Construct the railing (Steps 4–5).



Finished dimensions for each balustrade:
68"W × 31½"D × 36"H

Find the cut list at thisoldhouse.com/jul2014

TOOLS

- **jigsaw**
- **drill/driver and bits**
- **combination countersink bit**
- **2-inch hole saw**
- **miter saw**
- **router**
- **½-by-2-inch straight router bit with ¾-inch collar**
- **palm sander and 180-grit sanding pads**
- **½-inch spacers**
- **2½-inch angled sash brush**

MATERIALS

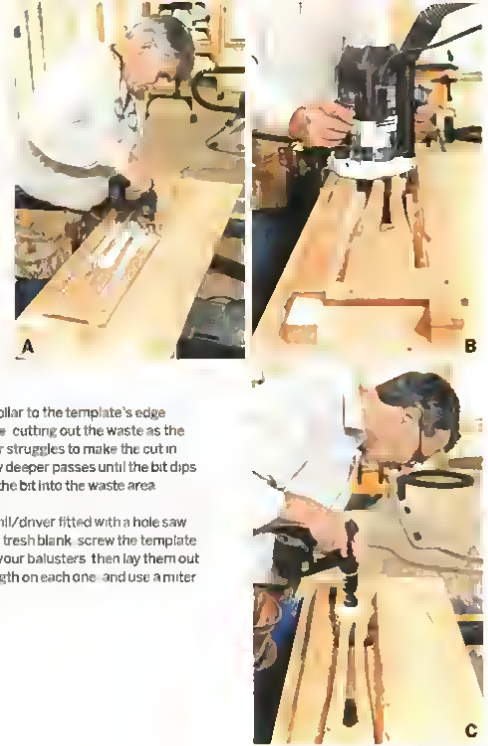
- **¾-inch plywood** Get one 2-by-4 foot sheet for the template.
- **¾-inch plywood** Get one 2-by-4-foot sheet for the jig base
- **¾×5 pine** Get six 16-footers for the balusters
- **2×4 primed straight-grain Douglas fir bottom rail** Get two 8-footers
- **2×4 primed end chamfered Douglas fir handrail** Get two 8-footers
- **1×2 primed pine** Get four 8-footers for the nailing strips
- **wood glue**
- **2-inch wood screws**
- **1⅝-inch stainless-steel screws**
- **2½-inch stainless-steel screws**
- **exterior latex primer**
- **exterior latex paint**

1 MAKE THE JIG

A] **Create the template.** Pick a pattern for your balusters, and transfer the scaled outline to a sheet of ½-inch plywood. Tom freehanded this one, but you can visit thisoldhouse.com/jul2014 to watch a video on ways to scale up your design. Once it's drawn, follow the lines with a jigsaw, as shown. If your design features a hole, as ours does, form it by using a drill/driver fitted with a hole saw.

B] **Construct the jig.** Use a piece of plywood for the jig's base. Cut cleats and corner stops from the same ¾ stock as your balusters, leaving space along each side to start the router bit. Drill pilot holes through the cleats, and snug them to the jig base with wood screws. Cut ½-inch-thick alignment stops that mount on top of the cleats to hold the template in the same spot each time. Use wood glue to secure the stops, as shown.

ILLUSTRATION: GREGORY NEMEC



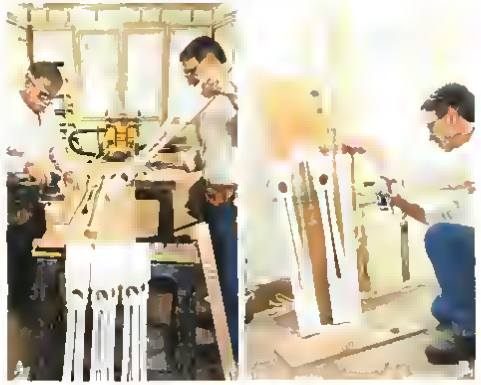
2 FORM THE BALUSTERS

A] **Align the template.** Use a miter saw to cut your baluster blanks several inches longer than their final height. (Building code typically requires a finished railing height of 36 inches, so subtract from that figure the thickness of the rails and the space beneath the bottom rail.) Secure the jig to your work surface. Place the first baluster blank in the jig, and lay the template over it, snug between the alignment stops. Use a drill/driver with a combination countersink bit to bore ⅛-inch pilot holes through the template and into the baluster blank and the cleats on all sides. Screw the template down tight over the blank and cleats, as shown.

B] **Rout the shape.** Chuck your bit into a router. Starting with the bit in the space beside the blank, power up the router, plunge down through the jig base, and guide the bit's collar to the template's edge. Carefully work your way counterclockwise around the template, cutting out the waste as the collar rolls along the shaped edge of the template. If your router struggles to make the cut in a single pass, start with a shallower cut and make progressively deeper passes until the bit dips through the base. For the negative space in the center, plunge the bit into the waste area to get started, then follow the template counterclockwise.

C] **Cut the hole.** With the blank still secured in the jig, use a drill/driver fitted with a hole saw to cut out the decorative hole. Unscrew the template, swap in a fresh blank, screw the template back down, and rout the blank. Repeat these steps to make all your balusters, then lay them out on your work surface with the patterns aligned. Mark a final length on each one, and use a miter saw to trim them to size.

TIP "Choose a baluster design with gentle curves that a router can easily follow." —NORM ABRAM



3 PREP THE PARTS

A] **Sand the balusters.** Use a palm sander with 180-grit paper to smooth the faces and the outside edges of each baluster. Sand the inside edges by hand, as demonstrated by Norm.

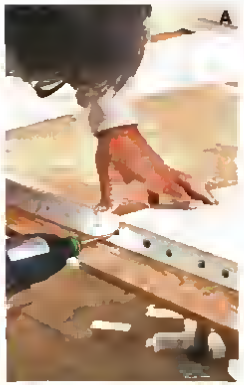
B] **Prime the pieces.** Spray any cut edges of the balusters evenly with primer. Make sure to coat all six sides, along with the inside edges, to protect the pine from water damage.

SEE HOW IT'S DONE
To see the episode in which Tom and Norm build this project, blipp this page or go to **thisoldhouse.com/jul2014**

4 SIZE THE RAILS

A] **Measure and cut the rails.** Cut 1× scraps to the finished height of your railing, and stand them up against the porch posts. To measure the span for the handrail, overlap two long pieces of 1× scrap, extend them to the inside faces of the posts, and rest them on the standing pieces, as shown. Mark the spot where they cross. Keeping the scrap boards aligned at your mark, lay them on the uncut handrail, flush at one end, and mark the length at the other end. Measure for the bottom rail the same way, 3 inches up from the porch floor. Use a miter saw or a circular saw to cut the rails to size.

B] **Cut the nailing strips.** The balusters are held in place by nailing strips installed along the top and bottom of each run of balusters, creating a panel. Use the cut rails to mark the length on each nailing strip, as shown, then cross-cut the strips to size. Next, use a sanding block to ease the top edges of the bottom nailing strip so that it will shed water.



5 BUILD AND INSTALL THE RAILING

A] **Make the panels.** Lay the nailing strips on edge on your work surface. Mark the positions for each baluster, using spacers to maintain a consistent gap between them. Drill ⅛-inch pilot holes through the nailing strips, and fasten each baluster with two 1½-inch stainless-steel screws.

B] **Install the bottom rail.** Cut 3-inch spacer blocks to prop up the bottom rail between the porch supports. Drill two 45-degree pilot holes at each end of the rail into the posts. Screw the rail in place with 2½-inch stainless steel screws.

C] **Attach the panel.** With a helper, rest the panel on the bottom rail. Drill ⅛-inch pilot holes at a slight angle through the nailing strip and into the bottom rail every 12 inches. Screw the panel to the rail with 1½-inch stainless steel screws. Fasten the handrail to the panel and posts the same way. Finish the railing with a good-quality exterior paint.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 96

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PIECE OF HISTORY

COMEBACK STORY

Stripped of its details and "modernized" in the 1980s, this Victorian-era house had lost its charm—until a discerning homeowner helped it regain its period feel

By **Jeff Book** ★ Photographs by **Deborah Whitlaw Llewellyn**
Produced by **Colette Scanlon** ★ Styling by **Andrea Caughey**

TOP A new passageway to the dining room/study replaced a wall of kitchen cabinets. ABOVE. Homeowner Greg Johnson, pictured with his godchildren Fritz and Kathryn, wanted to return architectural details to his house, many of which had been taken out during an earlier renovation

You wouldn't know

from its wholesome exterior, but this little white house, with its wraparound porch and leafy front yard, has a checkered past. Built in 1900 in the Fourth Ward, a historic district of largely Victorian-era homes in Charlotte, North Carolina, it witnessed the area's gradual postwar decline and its rebirth in the 1970s. The house avoided demolition during the neighborhood's redevelopment when it was moved from its original site nearby to its current, narrower lot, which required a 90-degree turn that put the front door to the side. During the early 1980s, it underwent a gut renovation that removed most of its historical details and introduced modern touches, like track lighting and a sleeping loft. At the time, that sort of makeover was as stylish as women's shoulder-padded power suits; neither look, as it turned out, stood the test of time.

Happily for the house, its next owner was Greg Johnson, a traditionalist and history buff. Armed with pages torn from *This Old House* and other magazines, he hired architect Tony Ward, whose work he'd admired at friends' homes, including several in the neighborhood. Greg, who used to manage real-estate operations for a major bank, was glad to have Ward to help him navigate this project. "Between us, I felt as though we knew what we were doing and would avoid rookie mistakes," Greg says.

Returning architectural integrity to the house would be the starting point. "We wanted the interior to fit the house and Greg's taste," Ward adds. "The house is small and cozy, so the changes had to be cohesive." And Greg knew the project should have well-defined goals. "I wanted to restore some period feeling without slavishly trying to re-create a Victorian interior," he says. "I also wanted to open it up to improve the flow between the rooms."

So the team jumped right in, reconfiguring the first floor. Taking out the living room fireplace, they built a new one on the opposite, exterior wall to clear the way for a wide opening to the kitchen. "That probably had the biggest impact in the renovation," Greg says. Now, handsome rectangular columns support an enclosed,

BELOW: A two-piece chair rail, wall frames, and a dusky blue paint color impart character to the dining room/study, which had been a bedroom. The warm, traditional furnishings are "mostly old family pieces," says the homeowner. *Paint (upper walls): Behr's Colorado Springs*

FLOOR PLANS (OPPOSITE PAGE): IAN WARPOLE

FLOOR PLAN

The redo improved the flow of the 1,800 square-foot house's first floor by opening up the kitchen, dining room, and living room to one another. A new sunroom provides access to the expanded outdoor living space. The existing spiral stairs lead to the restored second floor, now an enclosed guest room and office space.

FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR

scale 5

LEFT The former living room fireplace wall is opened up with a wide passageway to the kitchen, rectangular columns help shore up an enclosed support beam OPPOSITE The master bath was enlarged by stealing space from an adjacent hallway for an alcove with a vintage claw-foot tub and new moldings. *Paint (walls) Behr's False Cypress*

load-bearing beam and help define the transition between the rooms.

In the dark and dated kitchen, a new doorway was opened to the dining room/study. The kitchen was gutted and updated with a butcher-block-topped island and custom cabinets with granite countertops. New hardwood floors went in throughout the first floor. "I wanted to keep the old heart-pine floors, but there were too many holes where the fireplace, walls, and kitchen cabinets had been," Greg says. "So we floated hardwood throughout to tie it all together."

In the living room, at Greg's request, Ward designed a clean-lined fireplace framed by a band of Delft tiles—"real ones, ordered online from Holland," says Greg. Relocating the fireplace meant losing a window, which the architect replaced with two small oval ones.

"Members of the neighborhood design committee questioned them until I showed them similar windows in other period houses nearby," Ward says. Today they frame busts of Founding Fathers Thomas Jefferson—Greg's favorite architect—and John Adams.

While the master bedroom's footprint remained the same, the architect enlarged the narrow master bath by incorporating a redundant hallway and part of a laundry room and rerouting the plumbing. The addition of a big claw-foot tub as well as molding on the walls gives it a Victorian feel. "I'm a fan of white paint and dark wood," Greg says. "I went out on a limb with the green in the master bath."

The earlier renovation had removed part of the second floor, so the living room had a double-height ceiling with a loft upstairs. Restoring the original ceiling created one long second-floor space furnished as a guest bedroom at one end, a home office at the other. The previous renovation's space-saving spiral staircase remains in the entrance hall.

Though he'd successfully managed scads of commercial projects, Greg admits that his own project was afflicted by a common bug: delays. "In the commercial world, I was always the contractors' biggest customer, so they'd drop things for me," Greg says. "My house was one of several projects my contractor was juggling." He overpromised on the schedule (it was supposed to take four months and took seven), "but, fortunately, the workmanship was good."

That experience didn't dissuade Greg from doing more work once he'd moved in. "After living here, I found I still needed to add a couple of things." More bookshelves for one, which Ward designed to fill the wall around the master-bedroom window and include a cushioned window seat.

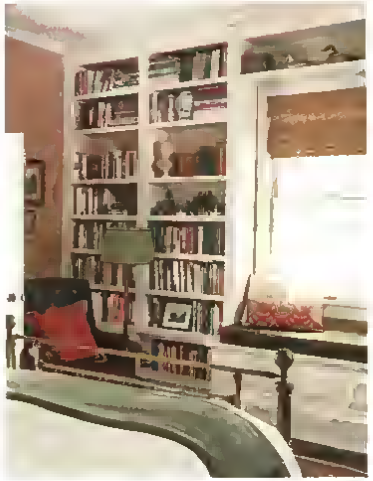
But what Greg really wanted was to improve the backyard and the house's connection to it. French doors already linked the master bedroom to a rear deck, which wrapped around the house to the porch. This, Greg realized, was a perfect place to extend the house with an airy sunroom.

"He originally wanted a screened porch," Ward recalls. "I suggested making it a year-round room with large, screened casement windows. You can open them and have the feeling of a screened porch or close them to enjoy it in any season." In a nod to Jefferson, the five-sided room echoes the octagonal dome at Monticello. Side doors open the room to a new deck.

In the renovation's final phase, the backyard became an inviting outdoor living and dining area. Out came the patchy lawn, in went brick paving and a large stone fireplace. In the front, Greg reduced and relocated a concrete parking pad to make more room for greenery. The garden's hydrangeas, azaleas, dogwoods, and other Southern favorites suit both the house and the climate.

LEFT The new fireplace wall in the living room is punctuated by two oval windows framing busts of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams atop low bookcases. BELOW Classic Dutch Delft tiles, ordered online, were used to create a traditional fireplace surround.

BELOW New built in bookcases and a window seat frame the one window in the downstairs master bedroom. BOTTOM Tongue-and-groove paneling now dresses up the guest room and office area upstairs.



LEFT For the sunroom off the master bedroom the architect used the biggest stock casement windows he could find. They backlight an art piece fashioned out of antique gauges and valves displayed behind the sofa.

DINE OUT EVERY DAY
To see more ideas for creating outdoor spaces, go to **wayfair.com/thisoldhouse**

"The backyard is a little sanctuary," Greg says. "You forget you're in the city, and the shade makes it 10 degrees cooler. I've had some really great parties there, both large and small."

The renovated house seems larger than its 1,800 square feet. Somehow, despite losing a vaulted ceiling in the living room, it feels more spacious than ever. "The rooms feel generous now," Ward says. "Before, they didn't."

"The kitchen was kind of closed off," adds Greg. "Now it's the heart of the house." And the exterior improvements serve as true outdoor rooms.

It's a short walk to Greg's current job, at Envision Charlotte, a nonprofit that promotes sustainable practices in the city. "Historic preservation is really another element of sustainability, whether it's a house or an office building," Greg says. "It's saving something old and making it more livable for today. Restoring an old house is inherently green." And thanks to his discriminating eye and careful stewardship, this one stands ready for another century of gracious living. ■

ABOVE Because of the area's balmy weather, the backyard space can be used for outdoor entertaining most of the year. LEFT With its handsome stone fireplace, the back patio "is a great place to sit with friends, have a glass of wine, and watch the fire," Greg says.

To see more photos of Greg Johnson's renovation, get your tablet edition at **thisoldhouse.com/tablet**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY, PAGE 96

MADE IN THE U.S.A.

AMERICAN CLASSICS

Sun, sand, and surf say summer, sure, but consider some other things: A rope hammock stretched between a pair of towering shade trees. A sturdy Adirondack chair beckoning you to sit back and slip off your shoes. A two-handled basket packed with sandwiches and a Thermos for a picnic on the grass. A kettle grill smoking and sizzling with burgers and dogs. Lodged in our collective memory, these products have become much more than just functional. Thanks to a combination of timeless design, usefulness, and originality, they've become iconic. Take a tour of 50 around-the-house items we think have achieved that status—and that, yes, are still made right here at home.

Photographs by Yunhee Kim

Styling by Chad Tucker

BACKYARD GREATS

1 **Old Glory** Let your flag fly on July 4th. This one is from the oldest flag maker in the country, founded in 1847. $45; annin.com for stores.

2 **Rope hammock** Oak spreader bars keep it stable enough to climb aboard. Rousing yourself post-nap though, is all on you. $160; pawleysislandhammocks.com

3 **Adirondack chair** The original outdoor recliner, by way of an upstate New Yorker's DIY design, circa 1905. $200; llbean.com

4 **Kettle grill** Invented in 1952 when a metalworker cut a marina buoy in half, adding air vents and legs. Perfect for preparing a movable feast. $149; weber.com for stores.

5 **Thermos** The insulated bottle loved by construction crews, schoolchildren—and just about everybody else. $33; shopthermos.com

6 **Pendleton blanket** First made in 1896 by the eponymous Oregon woolen mill for Native Americans to wear. $239; pendleton-usa.com

7, 8 **Coleman lantern and cooler** For generations they've been go-to gear for family campouts. $110 and $150; coleman.com

9 **Picnic basket** Handwoven from ash for 160 years. Open lid is flat for serving. $54; peterboroabasket.com

KITCHEN STARS

10 Schoolhouse light The original task light for classrooms, libraries courthouses and kitchens in the 1920s looks just as smart today $70; rejuvenation.com

11 Graniteware Enameled metal baking pans and skillets took off as a lightweight alternative to cast iron in the late 1870s. Their fun speckled look spawned a wide range of wares $18–$130; barnlightelectric.com

12 Ball jar The classic canning container fetes its 100th year with limited-edition green jars. $13 for six (pint size); freshpreserving.com

13 Lodge cast-iron skillet No nasty chemical coatings—and no better way to turn out a nice cornbread crust. A family-run business since 1910. $37; lodgemfg.com

14 Hoosier cabinet A symbol of modernity in the 1920s, these pieces were prized for built-in conveniences: metal dispensing bins for flour and sugar, spice racks, canisters, and more. We built this beauty from a kit. $2,380 (as shown); vandykes.com

15 Galvanized metal container These buckets, troughs, and basins have worked farms, factories, and family homes since 1911. Plant stand $23; behrensmfg.com for stores

COOKS' FAVORITES

16 Waring blendar In 1938, the Miracle Mixer was renamed for bandleader Fred Waring, its primary backer. $100; waringpro.com

17 KitchenAid stand mixer In 1919, the industrial bakery mixer was downsized to the at-home model we know and love. $350; kitchenaid.com

18 Jadeite Colorful Depression-era glassware that's a symbol of vintage kitchens. Cake plate, $51, and set of three bowls, $54; mossarglass.com

19 Pyrex In 1913, a Corning Glass scientist's wife baked a cake in sawed-off battery jars—and heat-resistant glass came home. 2-cup measure, $6; shopworldkitchen.com

20 Shaker straight chair Prized for its simplicity, utility, and beauty. $297; shakerworkshops.com

21 Braided rug The colonists made them by hand. Capel has famously been weaving theirs since 1918. $187; rugs-direct.com

PLAYTIME STAPLES

22 Slinky A spring that can walk down stairs! Or simply mesmerize as you move it between raised and lowered palms. Collector's Edition $11, poof-slinky.com

23 Log cabin building set These notched-end wood pieces continue to turn tykes into building tycoons. By Ray Toy. $19; amazon.com

24 Little red wagon This wooden model does the metal Flyer of your youth one better: with higher, removable side rails. $100; berlinflyerwagen.com for stores

25 Wiffle ball and bat An end to home runs punctuated with the sound of breaking glass. $5 combo set; shop.ctstore.com

26 Monopoly How generations have cut their teeth in the real-estate game. The Depression-era invention is no longer U.S.A.-made; alas, but we couldn't resist. Vintage Edition, $149; restorationhardware.com

27 Bicycle cards Maybe you recall them from endless rounds of Go Fish with the grandparents or just using them to decorate your bike-wheel spokes. $4; shopbicyclecards.com

OUTDOOR ESSENTIALS

28 **Carhartt jacket** The cold lasts for a few months, classics forever, which is why this indestructible duck-cloth coat is worth featuring in July. $95. carhartt.com

29 **Leather work gloves** Ten pieces of double-stitched goatskin and clever construction yield a glove that survives three or four times as long as the competition. $50. greenmountainglove.com

30 **Estwing axe** With its distinctive leather grip, a world famous sportsman's tool that's most at home on a campout or a backyard cleanup. $45. homedepot.com

31 **Zippo lighter** Call it the light of freedom—nearly every G.I. in World War II carried one. Now it comes in dozens of colors, including yes, red-white-and-blue. $23. zippo.com

32, 33 **Woolrich shirt and blanket** A buffalo-check shirt like ones actually worn by buffalo hunters and a blanket like those that warmed Civil War soldiers. $119 and $165. woolrich.com

34 **Filson bag** We've seen these bags on the chic streets of European capitals—no doubt a testament to their all-American quality and good looks. $245. filson.com

35 **Red Wing boots** Often imitated but try being in a field on your feet for 8 or 10 hours in a substitute. Your dogs would bark louder than a pack of hounds after a rabbit. $260. redwingheritage.com for stores

HARD WORKERS

36, 44, 48 **Plane, chisels and spokeshave** The first two are more handsome versions of tool designs from decades ago; the last is a more modern collaboration with master chairmaker Brian Boggs. $245, $275 and $135. lie-nielsen.com

37 **Square** What happens to precision equipment shipped across the heaving ocean in a container? Who cares, when you can get .002-inch accuracy right here at home? $98. bridgecitytools.com

38, 39, 46 **Handsaws** Functional art, each as beautiful as it is utilitarian. $190, $150 and $260. toolsforworkingwood.com

40 **Klein tool bag** In a world of injection-molded plastic, this canvas bag represents the commitment to quality needed to remain a family business since 1857. $57. homedepot.com

41 **Screwdrivers** Handsome, honest, and made with a special grinding technique that keeps the blade from slipping out of the screw slot. $40 per set of six. toolsforworkingwood.com

42 **Multitool** Had the Swiss not grown up in that tiny little country, their army knife might have looked more like this manly lifesaver. $100. leatherman.com

43, 45 **Levels** Pricey, perhaps, but precise. And how many of the cheap tin or plastic jobs come with factory repair service? $87 and $58. cricktool.com

47 **Hammer** Five generations of a family business to produce a tool that looks much like it did a hundred years ago—but works far better. $18. vaughanmfg.com

49 **Tape measure** The measure of a man—or woman—can be taken by the quality of his or her tools. In this case, literally, and from a company that's been doing it since 1843. $10. stanleytools.com for stores

50 **Painter's tape** An indispensable update of the 89-year-old classic and surprisingly still made here. By 3M. $7. homedepot.com ■

AMERICAN REVIVAL

FROM RUNDOWN TO DOWN-HOME

Nashville's 12 South neighborhood was once known more for sketchy streets and abandoned buildings than for vintage homes and bustling businesses—until a handful of locals went all-in to create a place they could be proud of

by Jennifer Justus

photographs by Caroline Allison

PHOTOS: IMOGENE + WILLIE'S KATE W. LEVY; MINIMALIST ILLUSTRATION: JOHN R. DYKES

IS PAGE. Neighbors gather for music, k fare, and good times behind clothier ogene + Willie. INSET, OPPOSITE: The neighborhood signals its new status.

ON CERTAIN SUMMER NIGHTS IN NASHVILLE'S 12 SOUTH DISTRICT, as daylight fades and the air begins to cool, the patio behind a gas-station-turned-clothing-shop transforms into an open-air living room. Strings of lights add to the festive atmosphere as families, office workers, career types, artists, and employees from nearby restaurants spread out on Mexican blankets to eat fried-avocado tacos and listen to local musicians play stripped-down acoustic sets.

Just five years ago this scene would have been unimaginable. The spot was then an abandoned automotive junkyard left over from a time when the district's central corridor, 12th Avenue South—also known as Granny White Pike—was mainly a thoroughfare through a rough part of town. Today the area's close-to-city-center location and low-key attractions have made it a destination, and the summer evenings called Supper + Song have become a symbol of what makes this urban neighborhood so special: creativity, community, and inclusiveness, accompanied by tasty food-truck fare and, of course, music.

According to local lore, Granny White Pike was named after a pioneer widow who hiked from North Carolina to Tennessee with two children in tow before settling near Nashville and opening an inn around 1812. Two centuries later, the story of 12 South

1] Third-generation architect Nick Dryden preserved his Victorian-era house's facade. He gave the interior of the former triplex a more modern update. 2] Restaurateur Miranda Whitcomb Pontes greets guests at Burger Up. 3] Housed in a 1920s bungalow, the Frothy Monkey coffeehouse has been a gathering place for 10 years. 4] A refurbished gas station serves as headquarters for artisan denim clothier Imogene + Willie.

resembles those of many other city neighborhoods across America. After cycles of boom and bust and suburban flight, the area has rebounded and then some, propelled by modern-day pioneers with a passion for city living. Drawn by industrial buildings ripe for repurposing and housing stock that includes late Victorians, American Foursquares, and Craftsman bungalows, these forward thinkers have helped turn a half-mile patch of Nashville into an urban village. Meet five neighbors whose energy and vision helped make it happen.

THE PIONEERING ARCHITECT From the porch on his stately late-1800s house, architect Nick Dryden can look down his leafy residential street to survey the activity at a local pizza joint on a corner of 12th Avenue South. A proponent of "placemaking"—rebuilding neighborhoods based on their potential for growth and social connection—he launched his firm DAIAD in 2001 and has been working in the district ever since. The architectural design force behind three of the shops and restaurants on these pages, the firm has been honored by the city's historical commission for its preservation efforts. But Dryden and his family decided to put down roots here just over a year ago. When he first spotted the house, it was "a potential tear-down, and not even on the market," he says. He made an offer without even stepping inside. "I've worked in the neighborhood for over 10 years, but living here makes me more invested. It's a great opportunity to practice what I preach."

THE WATERING-HOLE HOST A business owner who enjoys a short commute, Miranda Whitcomb Pontes lives in a restored 1926 bungalow on the same block as her locavore restaurant, Burger Up. Down the street you'll find Josephine, which she and partners opened in December. Attracted to 12 South for its walkability and proximity to Sevier Park, where she takes her dogs to run, Pontes staked her first claim in the neighborhood back in 2004, when she opened the Frothy Monkey coffeehouse, which quickly became a meeting place for community organizers, budding entrepreneurs, and neighbors alike. After passing the reins, she launched Burger Up—the day before Nashville's massive 2010 flood. Bottled water had to be brought in, and diners ate off paper plates, but locals came out to support her new venture. "It was a tough time for our town, but it was a sweet spot to be with others," she says.

THE GENERAL-STORE OWNER It would be hard to wander into White's Mercantile and not notice its striking display of barn brooms. Made of corn husks and dip dyed in bold colors, they are at once traditional and modern—just like store owner Holly Williams, a contemporary singer-songwriter who happens to be a granddaughter of Hank Williams Sr. She snapped up a former gas station last year, aiming to create a welcoming neighborhood place that's reminiscent of a Cracker Barrel country store but with an updated sensibility. You can pick up a box of pancake mix or a gift for a friend's baby shower. "When I moved to 12 South two years ago, my mom was like, 'Are you sure it's safe?'" she says, with a laugh. "Obviously, I love the neighborhood—I even get to bike to work."

THE RETAIL MAVERICKS Back in 2009, when husband-and-wife team Carrie and Matt Eddmenson began the rehab of a gas station to house their artisan denim business, Imogene + Willie, the area was not the shopping mecca it is today. "Thankfully, everyone on the street was so supportive of each other," Carrie says, recalling pro bono design help from Dryden, who felt the authenticity of the space was a perfect match for the shop, having been there since 12th Avenue South was a dirt road. The building's visible wear and tear "fit with our aesthetic of old meets new," Matt says. Both Carrie and Matt come from a long line of "pickers," and the store is chock-full of Americana. A tin ceiling is repurposed as wall covering, receipts found stuffed in the walls serve as wallpaper, salvaged signs hang as artwork. Driven by a desire to feel connected not just to the community's history but also its people, they started the Supper + Song evenings shortly after the store opened. Says Carrie, "It's a great time to see what a diverse quilt of people call 12 South home."

5] Sewing patterns hang above Carrie and Matt Eddmenson inside the Imogene + Willie showroom. 6] and 7] Singer-songwriter Holly Williams hangs with some of the bags, books, and housewares at her dry goods emporium, White's Mercantile. 8] Like the Eddmensons, Williams took over a salvaged gas station. These days, it's about a half-mile drive to the nearest place to fill your tank.

THIS PAGE. The original post-and-beam frame is lined with reclaimed barn wood and has a dining area illuminated by soaring steel-framed glass panels. The master suite sits hayloft-style over the kitchen.

The 19th-century Michigan barn (INSET) had more charm than creature comforts. Raised and rebuilt with sliding louvered shutters, ABOVE, it still has its silo and pleasing profile.

PIECE OF HISTORY

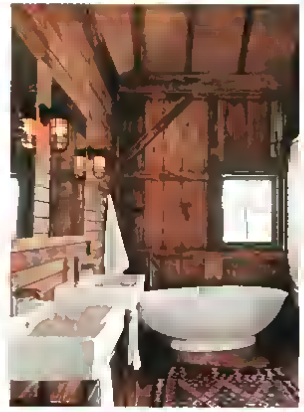
JUST SO BARN PROUD

Four tales of reimagining an outmoded outbuilding as a comfortable home, complete with lofty interior, rugged timbers, and a backstory like no other BY DEBORAH BALDWIN

OUR HARD-FARMING forebears would be amused. We've moved our livestock into factories and ourselves into the barn. Never mind the drafty siding, gaping doors, sky-high haylofts, and wide-open spaces that make barns so hard to heat. For those who are smitten by hunky old beams or maybe just a gambrel roof, nothing but a barn will do—even if it does mean developing an eye for untapped potential and a network of subcontractors with unusual skills. The payoff is a chance to save a piece of history, to own and occupy a rare antique—bragging rights in an era of tree farms and MDF. Read on for the stories of four living barns, brought back from the brink by their visionary owners.

EARTHBOUND ARTWORK

When art gallery owner Judith Racht acquired a lovely old farm in Niles, Michigan, 25 years ago, she knew the house was a bore. But the romantic-looking barn out back? "I always had this idea I was going to do something with it," she says. Several years ago, she came up with a plan, and that's when architect Austin DePree got involved. "He really put my ideas on paper," she says of an elegant upgrade that juxtaposes old wood and contemporary finishes. After local house movers jacked up the barn for a new foundation, general contractor Steve Nitz rebuilt the walls from the inside out, cladding the hand-hewn frame with reclaimed barn wood, followed by padding for chases, insulation, sheathing, and aluminum panels. He worked sheets of glass into larger versions of the old barn door openings, digging channels in the floor to catch condensation. Wind and geothermal energy contribute power and heat. To keep the walls from moving and to support an often snow-laden zinc roof, the team reinforced the collar ties with steel tension rods. Masons, metal workers, and structural engineers also did their part to turn the barn into a polished work of art. "It was a great collaboration," DePree says. Often with such conversions, he adds, "there's a tendency to add more, but the focus was to simplify and reduce it down." As a result, amenities like the kitchen fade into the woodwork and what you feel—to Judith's great satisfaction—is the warmth and character of a beloved old barn reinterpreted with a modern eye.

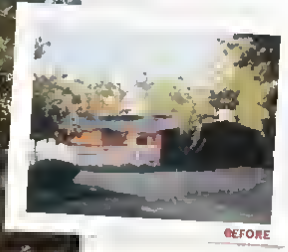


PHOTOS (OPEN, 4 THREADJAM, 5 H, 5 READ, AR EFF SALL, AWARD) JAMES YOCHYMSEN

OPPOSITE. Art lover Judith Racht planted a sculptural windmill blade; LEFT, near the side entrance, a working wind turbine hides behind the silo. BELOW LEFT: Clean-lined fixtures keep the master bath from feeling like a cigar box. BELOW RIGHT: An original support beam, tilted to give wagons turnaround space, is joined by a new steel beam and found art.

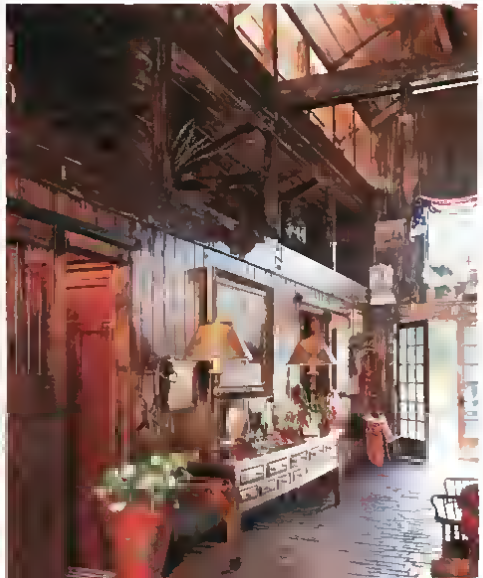
RANCH DELUXE

Gail Claridge's job as an interior designer is to conjure up style—Tuscan, French, Americana, whatever her clients hanker for—so turning her mid-century horse barn into a home wasn't a big stretch. Plus, she's in Ventura County, California, north of Hollywood, where reinvention is a way of life. "At first we thought we could use the barn for my husband's vintage cars," she recalls, "but as we discovered the barn aisle wasn't wide enough for a 1957 Chevy to turn into a stall." For a while they used the barn to store other stuff. Then, she says, "Scene Two: Live in the barn. It just adapted itself so easily. The washing stall became a bathroom because the water was there. The vet's room had a big, long counter for horse liniments, so it was the perfect spot for the kitchen." Gail and her son, Joe, both general contractors, managed the transition, slapping a wishing well over the septic tank, adding porches where there used to be corrals, raising the roof to insert a row of windows, and topping the barn with a cupola and an equine weather vane. Scalloped, red-painted siding and white trim add to the spirited new profile. They had fun inside, too, distressing a few new beams and adding a stone fireplace, a floor of faux-aged brick, and vintage, look flat-board trim. The ample foaling stall became a dining room; two small stalls merged to form a family room; and four others became bedrooms and baths. "It's like when you watch an old movie and see a simpler way of life," Gail says of these and some of her clients' favorite interiors. Only this time around, it's one with the comfort and ease that 21st-century homeowners have come to expect.



BEFORE

Saddled with a squat 1949 horse barn, INSET, the owners raised the roof; LEFT, turned the corrals into porches and converted the stalls to living spaces. BELOW: The kitchen is in the former vet's room and has its original pine ceiling, along with new barn red cabinets, a vintage Superior stove, and a stone wall.



LEFT: Former stalls now hold bedrooms and baths behind sliding doors. The low-care floor is blackened brick topped with polyurethane. To bring in more light, the owners added windows along the length of the raised roofline.

PHOTOS: MARK LOHMAN

SO YOU WANT TO LIVE IN A BARN

While few would deny the pleasures of living with exposed beams, open space, and a sense of the past, barns aren't the easiest structures to make livable. After all, they were designed as storage units, and thus, along with plumbing and wiring, probably lack closet space. Here are some other things to keep in mind.

- **Post-and-beam frames** were made to last, but roofs and siding are likely to be weather-damaged and may not even be original. Skinning a barn takes time and skill, and salvaging the wood involves yanking out nails. Then, of course, you must flesh out those old bones, using foam-core structural insulated panels (SIPs) or some more labor-intensive layering of materials.
- **You may need to fumigate**—powderpost beetles love old wood.
- **Old barns often lacked** what contemporary barn builders call "chew protection." Horses may have gnawed on the stall doors, and mice may have had their way with the siding.
- **The foundation is apt to need work,** if for no other reason than to raise siding above wet soil. Sill plates may need fixing too.
- **Barns come** with wagon-wide doors but little in the way of windows. To bring in sufficient daylight you may need to add glass—windows, skylights, a cupola.
- **No one pays much attention** to an empty barn, but once you start converting it to a living space, the local building code comes into play. Some requirements may be a surprise—like having to engineer the roof to meet certain snow loads.
- **It's hard to heat** (and cool) interiors as open as a SoHo loft and as capacious as a village church, not to mention the shortage of privacy.
- **Cathedral ceilings** are great to look at, but they allow sound to bounce around. And assuming the old barn ladder is long gone, just how are you planning to reach those cobwebs?

LEFT Transported across state lines to start a new life, this 19th-century New York barn INSET, swapped worn siding for spiffier stone BELOW A reclaimed barn door slides between the upstairs kitchen and master bedroom

BEFORE

TEXAS TRANSPLANT

When Toni Fewox's husband, Tom, started making noises about wanting a barn on their lakeside property near Marquez, Texas, she figured he meant a glorified garage where he could park sports equipment. Turned out he was having private talks with Heritage Restorations, which scours upstate New York for barns in need of new owners. Next thing she knows, a flatbed pulls up and it's piled with scrubbed, fumigated and numbered posts and beams dating, she's told, from the 1840s. The timber reeked of long-lost handcraft. "It was like we could buy a piece of history and do our own thing with it," Toni says. Heritage poured a concrete slab, resurrected the barn's 42-foot-long frame, and set about adding pipes, wires, walls, and a metal roof. At this point, it occurred to her: Wouldn't it be fun to sleep surrounded by hand-hewn hemlock and eastern pine? Working with carpenter Joed Taylor, the couple added stairs to a kitchen and master suite—freeing the ground floor for billiards and cocktails—and lined the barn with salvaged pine. Then stonemasons wrapped the whole thing with steel mesh and Oklahoma limestone. Wrought-iron touches help the Dutch barn melt into a "Lonesome Dove" landscape, but that's not the point, says Toni. "It's the barn's history. Somebody chopped trees down with an ax and made beams for a barn that held up all these years. People who come visit are just as fascinated as we are." As for that sports equipment, it finally moved into a new barn, built from scratch.

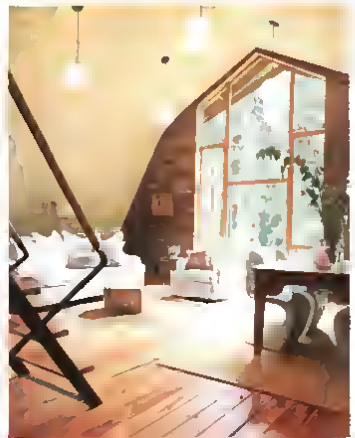
PHOTOS: (OPPOSITE PAGE) BILL MATTHEWS; (THIS PAGE) COURTESY OF SHED/JENNY PFEUTZER

LEFT The owners of this 1970s barn craved a gathering space big enough for the whole family. Its former carport, INSET, can now sleep a crew! BELOW The step-down dining area opens onto a new front patio

BEFORE

CEDAR AND GLASS

When the Griswold family bought a former farm on Whidbey Island, near Seattle, a ramshackle barn was part of the deal. The barn, built in the 1970s, didn't have much going for it beyond a graceful gambrel roof. But it was big enough to be a gathering place for friends and relatives. In stepped the design-build team of Prentis Hale and Thomas Schaer, who worked with the family to preserve the barn's footprint while converting its drafty interior to a series of cozy, accommodating spaces. "The owners wanted us to work with what was there," says Schaer. He and Hale pried off the worn siding, pulled out all the nails, and dried, sorted, and reused it inside. "People think using reclaimed materials saves money," Schaer notes. "But it actually increases costs and involves a huge effort." Unlike post-and-beam barns, this one had standard framing, so insulation and drywall went in easily, along with cedar board-and-batten siding matched to the original. "The owners were very clear," Schaer says. "They wanted to have this patina and warmth without freezing the barn in time—to build it to last while letting it do its own thing." Come to think of it, they sound like the barn raisers of yore.



LEFT A gently sloped ceiling softens the roofline's rustic angles. Siding was salvaged and new frames, a set of glass panels and windows. Douglas fir floorboards and simple furnishings reinforce the pared-down look.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY, PAGE 96

<ALL ABOUT>

Built-in Barbecue Pits

Nothing beats the summery pleasure of a juicy burger seared to perfection over an old-school charcoal fire BY KATE KARAM

BEFORE GAS GRILLS AND OUTDOOR KITCHENS, America fell in love with that symbol of suburbia, the backyard brick barbecue. As outdoor entertaining became a hallmark of the good life in the post-war 1950s, the open-air grill stood center stage, presided over by Dad, who ruled the flaming briquettes.

We think it's time to give these nostalgic cookers a second look.

While you could buy a simple portable kettle grill to heed the call of the charcoal, there's something alluring about a built-in masonry grill. These structures not only accent the patio, providing a focal point and creating a gathering spot, but also are ideal for feeding a crowd because they typically have more grilling space than your standard-size rollaway. Plus, they're durable and weather resistant, don't need to be stored, and have a warmer feel than outdoor kitchens gleaming with stainless-steel surfaces.

Building a simple barbecue pit is a relatively easy job and likely to cost less than a fancy new gas grill. With the right tools, materials, and a little skill, you can put together a basic brick barbecue in a weekend.

So whether you build your own or hire a pro, think about firing up one of these backyard barbecues this summer and standing, Tom Collins in hand, admiring the glow and taking a moment away from your packed schedule to appreciate your family, your friends, and your life.

The Brown family gathers around their vintage 1950s brick barbecue in Birmingham, Alabama.

VITALS

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST? A simple three-sided 24"W by 24"D by 30"H brick grill on a 4-inch concrete pad will run about $500 for DIY materials. Prices go up from there, depending on materials and style.

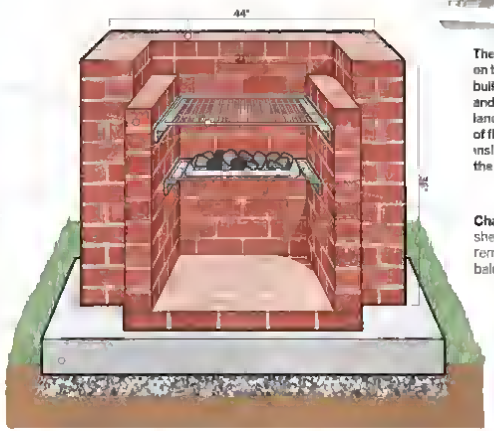
DIY OR HIRE A PRO? If you've got basic bricklaying skills, a strong back, and some good buddies, go for it. (blackknightdirect.co.uk offers kits that include plans and grates from $175, shipping included.) You may want to hire a pro for complicated masonry.

WHERE TO PUT IT? Determine which way the prevailing winds blow, and site the barbecue so that the smoke will blow away from the cook and the dining area. If in doubt, stake small flags in the lawn and observe.

MAINTENANCE? Brush hot grill grates to prevent food and bacterial buildup. When they've cooled down, spray with vegetable oil to prevent rusting. Dispose of cold ash after each use to cut down on excess smoke and unpleasant flavors.

ANATOMY OF A SIMPLE BRICK BBQ

Five components create this three-sided box



Firebox The inner wall of the barbecue may be lined with fire brick—called refractory brick and made of fire clay—for added heat retention

Grill grate Choose rustproof porcelain-coated cast iron or stainless steel. Can be supported by angle irons or brick ledges.

Base A 3- to 4-inch-thick pad of fiber-reinforced concrete over a 3- to 4-inch base of tamped crushed stone provides stability.

Solid-brick walls These are finished on top with header and stretcher borders

The higher back-end side walls on this barbecue, designed and built by Brookwood Landscape and Stonework (brookwood landscaping.com), reduce the risk of flying sparks. Thinner, elongated inside walls ease side access to the grates during cooking.

Charcoal/ash pan A solid-metal sheet holds fuel and simplifies ash removal. Space it 7 to 15 inches below the cooking surface.

CONCRETE SLAB HOW-TO
For the step-by-step, bit.ly/this page or go to **thisoldhouse.com/jul2014**

Beyond the basic

Add features such as a movable grill rack, a smoker, or a chimney to boost your cooking and outdoor-living style

GRILL WITH AN ADJUSTABLE GRATE
Argentine-style "gaucho grills" feature a recessed firebox with a heavy-duty grate that has a cranking mechanism to raise and lower it over hot coals, regulating the heat. These products can be pricey; consider having one made by a metalworker, starting around $700.

GRILL-SMOKER COMBO
This cylindrical smoker—made from a brick-clad concrete drainpipe—is fueled by a fire pit that becomes a campfire-style grill with the addition of a grate (gratagrates.com offers custom ones, starting at $169).

FIREPLACE GRILL
Want to build a "wow" outdoor feature? Start with a precast fireplace kit, line it with fire brick, and clad it with stone veneer (fogazzo.com has kits, starting at $2,000). Then turn it into a cooking hearth by adding angle irons to hold a grill grate.

PHOTOS: (GLADSTONE) FROM TOP, PHOTO COURTESY OF BROOKWOOD LANDSCAPE/STEPHEN E. RUSSELL; LYNN MASLIN E. ANDREW MAHEY (2); (OPPOSITE PAGE, LUCY AND ETHEL) DIK VAN DER HEYDEN/GETTY IMAGES; (ILLUSTRATION) BRIAN BIES (2)

Pick your materials

What you build your barbecue with isn't just about looks. Blocks, bricks, and stones each have their own pros and cons.

> **Concrete block ($)** Concrete block is the least expensive option, the 4-inch-thick blocks shown here allow for a smaller footprint. Costs can rise significantly with the addition of a natural-stone or cast-stone veneer. If using the latter, be sure it's rated for outdoor use. Lining the firebox with fire brick mortared with refractory cement will help increase heat retention.

> **Brick ($$)** Brick is a good choice because it's handsome, it retains heat well, and, as a fire-hardened material, it doesn't readily break down when exposed to the elements. Look for "facing bricks," which are both a structural and a finish material; the ones shown here have recessions that hold mortar. Achieving uniform courses may require above-average DIY skill.

> **Stone ($$$)** Quarried stone, such as the "rounds" shown here, is the most "natural" choice and, like brick, is good at retaining heat. Expect to spend considerable time selecting, shaping, and fitting stones together. Plan to have extra material on hand; how much depends on the type of stone. Ask your stone yard to determine the overage you'll need.

PLAY IT SAFE

- Check local codes regarding open flames, especially in areas prone to brush fires.
- The barbecue must be located in an open area at least 10 feet from buildings, combustible overhead surfaces, and brush.
- Before disposing of ash, allow coals to burn out completely and wait 48 hours.
- Wrap cold ashes in heavy-duty aluminum foil and place in a noncombustible container.

As Lucy and Ethel proved back in the day, building a backyard barbecue pit takes planning—and some skill!

TOOLS WE LOVE

1 TONGS> Select extra-long ones for safety. **GrillPro 20-inch Professional Extra Long, $15, ebay.com**

2. INSTANT-READ MEAT THERMOMETER> We chose this one for its longer probe, which helps keep hands far from flames. **Chef's Drawer, $11, amazon.com**

3 GRILL BRUSH> A removable scrubby pad makes quick work of cleaning gunk from grates. **Tool Wizard Grill Brush Scrubber, $13, toolwizard.com**

4 SPATULA> A serrated stainless-steel edge helps release burgers from the grill for a clean flip. **OXO Good Grips BBQ Turner, $11, oxo.com**

5 MITT> Look for one that can withstand at least 475°F. **Pit Mitt Barbecue Grill Glove, $19.95, ehefs.com**

CHOOSE YOUR FUEL

Fast-lighting briquettes are convenient, but we prefer these chemical-free options for fueling up

1. Natural briquettes Their lower burn rate provides the most control over heat while cooking, and a higher carbon content makes briquettes an easy grilling fuel to light. Stubb's Natural Bar-B-Q Charcoal Briquets, $7.87 for a 15-pound bag, available at home centers.

2. Hardwood lump charcoal These irregular chunks of carbonized wood burn clean, fast, and hot, creating a 600°F or hotter wall of heat that produces a crisp char. Cowboy All-Natural Hardwood Lump Charcoal, $16 for a 20-pound bag, available at home centers.

3. Hardwood logs The old-school campfire method adds lots of smoky flavor. Use dry, well-cured woods, such as fruitwood, hickory, or mesquite, and allow 45 minutes for logs to burn down to embers. Gather your own untreated wood or find it bundled at home centers.

#1 MUST-HAVE

The easiest way by far to light charcoal is with a metal chimney starter. Fill the space under the wire rack at the bottom with wadded-up newspaper and the metal cylinder at the top with briquettes. Light from below. When the briquettes are lightly covered with white ash, pour onto lower grate.

Gauging heat

An Instagram-worthy burger starts with ideal cooking temps.

Burgers need medium-high direct heat to get a charred crust and medium doneness, while buns should be toasted in a cooler, indirect zone of the grill. Here are two methods for assessing the heat.

HAND TEST

Hold your outstretched palm an inch or two above the upper grill grate. The length of time you can stand the heat tells how hot the grill is.

TIME	GRILL HEAT	TEMP RANGE
less than 1 second	very hot	over 600°F
1–2 seconds	hot	400°F–500°F
3–4 seconds	medium	350°F–375°F

EYE TEST

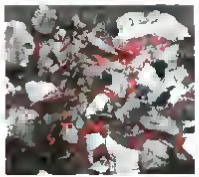
You can also use visual clues to tell how hot your charcoal fire is.

600°F

Coals that are bright red and still flaming are too hot for burgers.

500°F

Red coals with a light coating of ash are ready for patties.



400°F

Cooler coals covered with thick gray ash are ideal for toasting buns.

PHOTOS: (TOP) TINA RUPP; (BOTTOM) COURTESY OF WEBER-STEPHEN PRODUCTS LLC; FOR WHITE PAGE: FUEL AND PLATTER, WENDELL T. WEBER (4); GRILL MARKS, DAVID NO HEAT, SATAN JAY; COPYRIGHT 1999 THE TAUNTON PRESS INC. ILLUSTRATIONS: BROWN BIRD DESIGN

Tips for grilling greatness

Jamie Purviance, chef and author of *Weber's Big Book of Burgers* (2014), shares tips—and a great recipe—to turn you into a grilling guru.

GET IT HOT

Preheating the grill for at least 15 minutes keeps meat from sticking and brings on enviable grill marks.

CREATE ZONES

Form two temperature zones by moving all the hot coals to one side. The direct-heat area sears burgers perfectly, while the cooler zone gives you a place to let them "rest."

HANDS OFF

No pushing or prodding the meat once it's on the grill: 5 to 6 minutes on each side is all you need for a caramelized crust.

ADD SMOKY FLAVOR

Soak a few handfuls of hardwood chunks in water, then drain and toss onto hot coals to subtle smokiness to grilled meats.

TAKE FIVE

Let hot burgers rest for a few minutes before diving in to retain juices.

STOP GUESSING

The surest way to ensure perfect doneness is by using an instant-read meat thermometer.

Rare: 120°F–125°F
Medium-rare 130°F–135°F
Medium: 140°F–145°F
Medium-well 150°F–155°F
Well-done 160°F–165°F

RECIPE

ROUTE 66 BURGERS

SERVES 4 | PREP TIME 15 mins | GRILLING TIME 10–12 mins

Inspired by one of our earliest highways, made famous in song and film, this is a classic-take-with-a-twist on America's favorite food.

SAUCE

- ⅓ cup mayonnaise
- 2 Tbsp. ketchup
- 1 Tbsp. sweet pickle relish
- 1 Tbsp. finely chopped shallot

PATTIES

- 1½ lbs. ground chuck (80 percent lean)
- ¾ tsp. garlic powder
- ¾ tsp. kosher salt
- ¼ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 4 slices American cheese
- 4 hamburger buns, split
- 4 leaves Boston lettuce
- 1 ripe beefsteak tomato, about 6 oz., cut crosswise into 4 slices

1. Combine the sauce ingredients.
2. Mix the patty ingredients and gently form four patties of equal size, each about ¾ inch to 1 inch thick. With your thumb or the back of a spoon, make a shallow indentation about 1 inch wide in the center of the patties to prevent them from forming a dome as they cook. Refrigerate the patties until ready to grill.
3. Prepare the grill for direct cooking over medium-high heat.
4. Grill the patties for 10 to 12 minutes over direct medium-high heat until cooked to medium doneness, turning once. During the last 30 seconds to 1 minute of grilling time, place a slice of cheese on each patty to melt, and toast the buns, cut side down, over direct heat.
5. Build each burger on a bun with sauce, a lettuce leaf, a tomato slice, and a patty. Serve warm.

HOW TO SHAPE THE PERFECT BURGER

1 Divide into equal-size portions for uniform cooking times.
2 Gently shape into a ¾- to 1-inch-thick patty.
3 Indent the center of the patty so that the burger cooks up flat.

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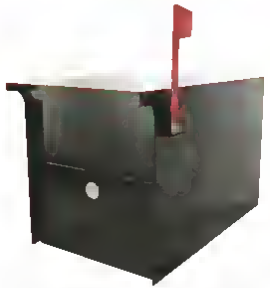
insinkerator.com



Mail Protector Vault
Made in Colorado Springs, CO

The Mail Protector Vault is perfect for users who need a large capacity, locking mailbox. Made of 16-gauge steel, it stores mail and small packages (checkbook size) and meets USPS standards.

mailboxmerchant.com/mail-protector-vault

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Made in Gettysburg, PA

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To order, visit **GettysGear.com**

Wall tile

Daltile Semi-Gloss
MADE IN SPOKANE, WASH.*

My tiling contractor, Mark Ferrante, wants tiles to be consistent in size and quality. That's what Daltile delivers, along with great customer service. The company's website even specifies the town where each style is made. daltile.com

Exterior paint

Sherwin-Williams, Emerald acrylic latex
MADE IN GARLAND, TEXAS

I'm amazed by how much water-based paints have improved in the past 10 years. For example, this 100-percent acrylic has a lifetime warranty against peeling, is GreenSeal compliant for its low VOCs, and can be applied down to 35 degrees F. sherwin-williams.com

Structural screws

FastenMaster, Headloks
MADE IN AGAWAM, MASS.

These skinny screws are stronger than ⅜-inch lag screws, but I can easily sink them into wood with an impact driver and no-slip bit. That means I don't need to bother with pilot holes or washers. fastenmaster.com

Rot-proof trim and moldings

Azek Building Products cellular PVC
MADE IN SCRANTON, PA.

This stuff looks, cuts, and nails just like painted pine but isn't harmed by insects, moisture, or sun. I keep an eye on the thermometer when installing this kind of trim because it grows longer in hot weather and shorter in cold weather. azek.com

Composite decking

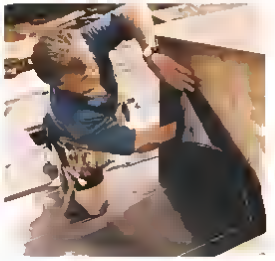
Trex Transcend decking
MADE IN WINCHESTER, VA.*

When my clients want a minimal maintenance deck, I steer them toward capped composites with a wood-plastic core. The cap protects against dirt, stains, and mildew and cleans up with soap and water. This decking comes with a 25-year warranty against staining and fading and meets California's tough fire-resistance standards. trex.com

Rain screen

Benjamin Obdyke HomeSlicker
MADE IN HORSHAM, PA.

It's just a roll of corrugated plastic mesh, but when I put it under wood siding, it creates an air gap that allows excess moisture to escape. Houses stay drier, paint lasts longer, and shingles don't curl. benjaminobdyke.com



Waterproof membranes

Grace Ice & Water Shield and Vycor
MADE IN MOUNT PLEASANT, TENN.

This super-sticky rubberized asphalt membrane stops water cold. Drive a nail through it and it will ooze back around the shaft, sealing the hole. I apply Ice & Water Shield (above) on roofs; the Vycor strips protect the rough sills of windows and doors. nagraceconstruction.com

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PROJECT OF THE WEEK

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HOW TO BUILD A PYRAMID TRELLIS

Trellises have a long history of supporting climbing and vining plants, and the tapered, freestanding version shown here remains a fixture in many an English garden, where it gives clematis and other flowering climbers a sturdy platform and a chance at sun.

To make our pyramid trellis strong, lightweight, and weather resistant, we used ½-by-2-inch strips of cedar (they may be stocked as lattice at the lumberyard), which can be left unfinished. You can customize yours by adding more pickets or cross-pieces, or by varying their positions. However you customize it, the finished product is sure to provide a fresh focal point in your garden.

You'll find all the tools and supplies necessary for this—and any—home project at The Home Depot nearest you.

For step-by-step instructions, go to thisoldhouse.com/project

Stone veneer

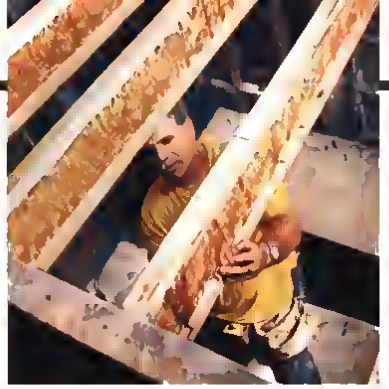
Natural Stone Veneers International
MADE IN FOND DU LAC, WIS.*

We used this New England fieldstone, which is quarried in Pennsylvania, to cover the foundation at the Weston *TOH* TV project (find it at thisoldhouse.com/jul2014). Because it's real stone, every piece has a unique shape and color. nsvi.com

Wood stains

Minwax PolyShades
MADE IN FLORA, ILL.

When wood needs a little help to look its best, I'll brush or wipe on some stain to deepen its color and highlight the grain. This brush-on product, born in the U.S.A. in 1984, combines stain pigments and polyurethane in one can, making for fast finishing. minwax.com



I-joists

Weyerhaeuser Trus Joist
MADE IN EUGENE, ORE.*

Here's another product invented in the U.S.A. engineered wood joists. Even though they're up to 60 percent lighter than sawn lumber of the same size, they're just as stiff and won't bow, shrink, twist, or split. weyerhaeuser.com

Composite shutters

Atlantic Premium Shutters Architectural Collection
MADE IN LATTA, S.C.

We used these shutters on the New Orleans *TOH* TV project (find it at thisoldhouse.com/jul2014) because they look just like painted wood. But they're actually made of fiberglass, a tough, low-maintenance material that never needs painting. And if you need to protect your windows from hurricanes, the reinforced versions meet Florida's building code. tapcoint.com

Windows

Pella Architect Series
MADE IN SHENANDOAH, IOWA

All the well-known window brands are making good units these days. I always tell people to go for the company's top of the line wood or wood-clad models, which have thicker jambs and better detailing. pella.com

PHOTOS: (TOM'S LIVE) ANTHONY FIELD; (MARKWORTH FLOORING, JOINT COMPOUND) T. WEBBER; (COMPOSITE PANEL, TOM'S LIVE) KOLIN SMITH

Hardwood flooring

Hunt Custom Milled Wood Floors, White oak
MADE IN EMLENTON, PA.*

Quartersawn white oak is one of my favorite types of flooring. It's beautiful, with its straight grain and dramatic ray fleck. It's also more impact-resistant than flatsawn wood and more stable. I'd say it's a true American classic. hunthardwoodfloors.com

Joint compound

USG Sheetrock Plus 3 Lightweight Joint Compound
MADE IN GYPSUM, OHIO*

For convenience, you can't top this all-American invention: premixed joint compound sealed in a 5-gallon bucket. I'm a fan of this version because it weighs about 30 percent less than a regular premix and spreads and sands nicer than the heavy stuff. usg.com

Skylight

Velux No Leak Skylight
MADE IN GREENWOOD, S.C.

People love skylights for the light they let in, but they're not so excited about leaks. This one goes the extra mile to keep water out, with a redundant, multilayered flashing system that virtually eliminates the chance of water getting through. A 10-year installation warranty backs it up. veluxusa.com

HVAC system

Lennox Ultimate Comfort System
MADE IN MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA

To get the most comfort and savings out of a heating and cooling system, all the components need to communicate and work together smoothly. And that's what this system is designed to do, from the variable-speed air handler (far left), which helps hold temperatures to within 1 degree F of the set point, to the ozone-destroying air purifier (near left) to the super-efficient outdoor condenser. It's the complete package. lennox.com

Editors' Picks

The list of building products made in the U.S.A. is too long for these pages, but here are some of our favorites.

Barn-door hardware
NW Artisan Hardware, nwartisanhardware.com
Made in Kaysville, Utah

Cast-stone veneers
Eldorado Stone, eldoradostone.com
Made in San Marcos, Calif.

Construction adhesives
Loctite PL Premium, loctiteproducts.com
Made in Mattawan, Mich.

Dishwashers
GE, geappliances.com
Made in Louisville, Ky.

Disposers
InSinkErator, insinkerator.com
Made in Racine, Wis.

Entry-door hardware
Baldwin locksets, baldwinhardware.com
Made in Wyomissing, Pa.

Grouts and mortars
Laticrete International, laticrete.com
Made in Bethany, Conn.*

High-velocity HVAC
Unico System air handlers and miniducts, unicosystem.com
Made in St. Louis

Pocket-door hardware
L.E. Johnson Products, johnsonhardware.com
Made in Elkhart, Ind.

Ranges
Dacor, dacor.com
Made in City of Industry, Calif.

Structural connectors
Simpson Strong-Tie, strongtie.com
Made in Stockton, Calif.*

Switches and outlets
Leviton, Decora brand, leviton.com
Made in Morganton, N.C.

Ventilation
Broan-QT Series bath fans, broan.com
Made in Hartford, Wis.

*and other locations

Architectural shingles

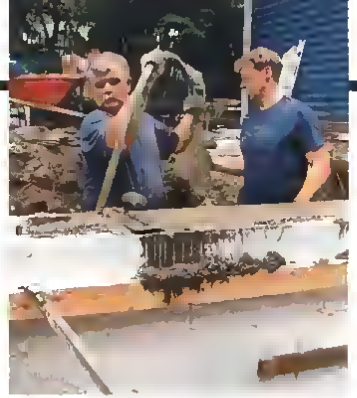
GAF Timberline Lifetime shingles
MADE IN MICHIGAN CITY, IND.*

I like the look of a wood or slate roof, but their cost is, well, "through the roof." These asphalt shingles have random layers of material and carefully positioned color granules that create the appearance of deep shadow lines along each course. Plus they're guaranteed to last as long as you own your house. Can't beat that. gaf.com

No-silicone sealant

DAP 3.0 for kitchen, bath, and plumbing
MADE IN DALLAS

It's nearly as stretchy as silicone, but unlike silicone it's paintable, doesn't leave behind a greasy residue, and has a 10-year warranty against mold. DAP also makes 3.0s for sealing cracks in driveways and around doors and windows. dap.com



Foundation walls

Logix Insulated Concrete Forms
MADE IN JOHNSON CITY, TENN.*

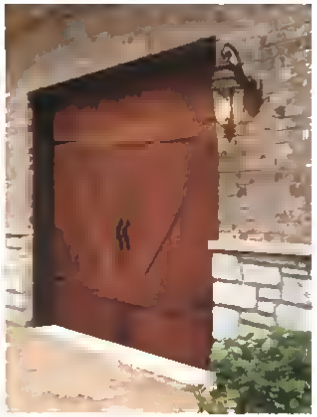
We used insulated concrete forms (ICFs) at the Auburndale *TOH* TV project (find it at thisoldhouse.com/jul2014). These blocks, made of lightweight foam, stack like Legos and are a snap to install. Filled with concrete (above), they're energy efficient—up to R-28—and strong. Houses built entirely with ICFs stand up to hurricanes and tornadoes. logixicf.com

Garage doors

Clopay Door Reserve Collection
MADE IN RUSSIA, OHIO

So many houses have garage doors right on the front that it makes sense to find one that looks as good as this one does. Made of western red cedar to resemble carriage-style doors, it still rolls up and down using a standard garage opener. We used one like it to dress up the Newton Shingle-style *TOH* TV project (find it at thisoldhouse.com/jul2014). clopaydoor.com

PHOTOS: (MOLDINGS) ANDREW J. WEISSELL; WEBER

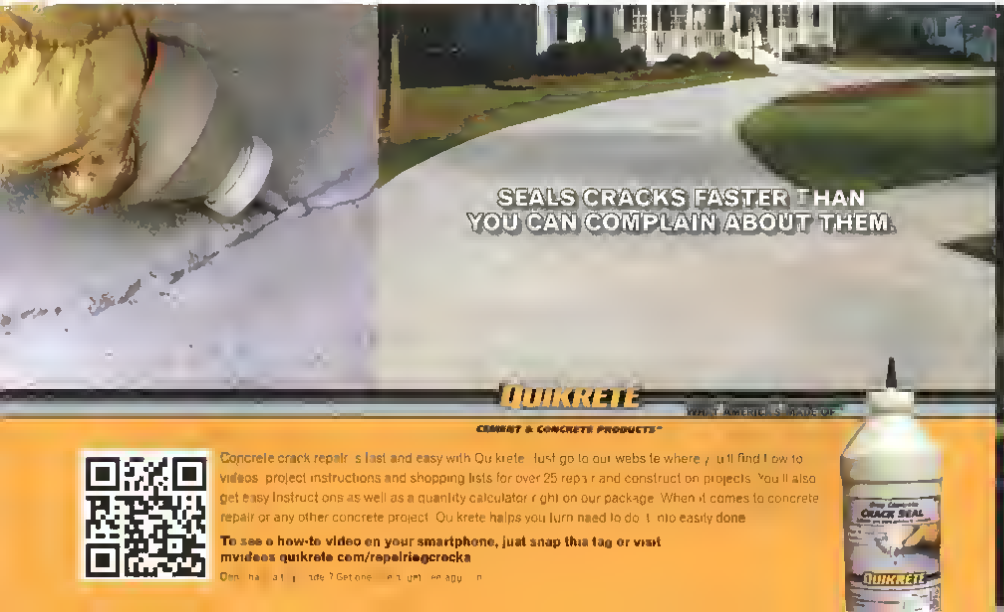


Moldings and trim

WindsorOne Classic American Moldings
MADE IN WILLITS, CALIF.*

Not only are these finger-jointed pine moldings uniform, crisp, and perfectly primed, they're also historically accurate, with profiles from the colonial era and the Greek Revival and Craftsman periods. windsorone.com

*and other locations



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COVER Stylist: Andrea Caughey. Bike: Worksman Industrial Newsgirl (Model ING) made in the U.S.A. 800-962-2453, worksmancycles.com. *For more information, see listing for "Comeback Story."*

HOME SOLUTIONS *(pp. 17–21)* Budget redo: Homeowner's blog "Life & Home at 2102," buhayatbahay.blogspot.com. Battle of the look-alike bugs: *Thanks to* Dr. Jim Fredericks, npmapestworld.org.

BEFORE + AFTER KITCHEN Family affair *(pp. 23–25)* Designer: Hwang DeWitt, San Francisco, CA, 650-394-5011, hwangdewitt.com. Paint: Custom (cabinets); 2020-20 Lemon Shine (breakfast room pantry); and PM-3 Decorator's White (walls and trim), benjaminmoore.com. Exhaust fan: fanlach.net. Dishwasher: bosch-home.com. Cabinet boxes, pantry, and sink: ikea.com. Glass cabinet-door insets: Pepe Glass Co., San Francisco, CA, pepeglass.com. Faucet: danze.com. Pulls and knobs: rejuvenation.com. Worktable: East Bay Restaurant Supply, Oakland, CA, eastbayrestaurantsupply.com. Butcher-block countertops: aurahardwoods.com. Undercounter keg: beveragefactory.com. Chairs: dwr.com.

PHOTOSHOP BEDO Fixing an awkward facade *(p. 43)* *Thanks to* Elizabeth Jahn, Elizabeth Jahn Architecture, Westport, CT, 203-571-1175, elizabethjahn.com.

WEEKEND REMODEL Build a gingerbread balustrade *(pp. 51–54)* Baluster design: David Whitney, David Whitney Architect, Arlington, MA, 781-643-0759, davidwhitney.com.

COMEBACK STORY *(pp. 56–63)* Architect: Tony Werd, Werd Design, Charlotte, NC, warddesign.com. Landscape designers: John Eyrd, John Eyrd Garden Design, Charlotte, NC, 704-441-1537. Aaron Gay, Commonwealth Landscaping Management, Charlotte, NC, commonwealthnc.com. Bamboo shades: smithandnoble.com. Paint: 3005-7C Woodlawn Lewis Gold (bedroom walls); valsparpaint.com; 5700-4 Colorado Springs (dining room/study walls) and 430F-4 False Cypress (bathroom walls); behr.com. Porch: Wicker furniture: restorationhardware.com. Lights: efirds.net. Kitchen: Granite countertops: Tropic Brown; Harkey Tile & Stone, Charlotte, NC, harkeytileandstone.com. Range: jennair.com. Dishwasher and sink: geappliances.com. Cabinetry hardware: homedepot.com. Tea towels: pier1.com. Living room: Settee: restorationhardware.com. Armchair: hickorychair.com. Fireplace tile: delfttiles.com. Busts: williamsburgsculpture.com. Vase and tray: potterybarn.com. Pillows: target.com. Dining room/study: Paisley chair: hickorychair.com. Floor lamp: restorationhardware.com. Pillows: homegoods.com. Master bedroom. Bed: restorationhardware.com. Guest bedroom. Green pillows: homegoods.com. Bathroom. Towel and scrub brush: pier1.com. Sunroom. Sofa: potterybarn.com. Art piece: bdantiques.com. Tangerine pillows and candle: homegoods.com. Patio. Outdoor furniture: summerclassics.com. Lanterns: potterybarn.com. Wicker dining chairs: americancountry.com. Pillows: target.com.

JUST SO BARN PROUD *(pp. 74–81)* Earthbound artwork: Architecture: Northworks Architects and Planners, Chicago, IL, nkws.com. General contractor: Nitz Design Builders, Baroda, MI, nitzdesignbuilders.com. Barn consultant: R&B Enterprises, North Freedom, WI, rickbott.net. Glass panels: Hope's Windows, Jamestown, NY, hopeswindows.com. Aluminum shutters: Custom Metals, Madison, WI, custommetals.com. Sinks: duravit.us. Texas transplant: Barn components, ironwork, and general contractor: Heritage Restorations, Waco, TX, heritagebarns.com. Doors opening on porch, staircase, and kitchen cabinets and floor: Taylor Home Improvements, San Marcos, TX, 512-757-2044. Exterior stone: Rockit Natural Stone, Wister, OK, rockitnaturalstone.com. Cedar and glass: Architecture and general contractor: SHED Architecture & Design, Seattle, WA, shedbuilt.com. Ranch deluxe: Designer and general contractor: Gail Clandge Designs, Westlake Village, CA, gailclandge.com.

ALL ABOUT BUILT-IN BARBECUE PITS *(pp. 82–87)* *Thanks to* Jason Morey and Mark Simonds, brookwoodlandscaping.com. Red-and-white rug: deshandalbert.com. Red flower pots: homedepot.com. ■

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LOT NO 91805/61945

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- 22 Configurations

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PIECE OF HISTORY

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THE HISTORY By the time John Washburn built this farmhouse, around 1840, the town of Dover was a far cry from the wild frontier that existed when his uncle Cornelius helped settle the area 50 years earlier. Cornelius was quite the frontiersman. After receiving a shotgun at the age of 10, he set out for Kentucky with his father. Cornelius and Daniel Boone became close friends, living off the land, hunting and trapping, and building fortresses. Cornelius's father purchased a 40-acre parcel here, which was ultimately deeded to John. John built this house on the land and lived in it with his wife, Catherine, and their daughter, Rachel. In 1854, they decided to move and sold the house, and it has changed hands only five times since. The current owner hopes to sell it to someone who will preserve it for future generations.

WHY SAVE IT? The exterior of the 2,584-square-foot house is a blend of Greek Revival and Gothic Revival styles, with a pleasing symmetrical facade and a lancet window over the columned porch. The inside is graced with simple period millwork and floorboards cut from local cedar.

WHAT IT NEEDS The house is structurally sound but requires roof and porch repairs. The wiring should be replaced, and the bathroom needs to be replumbed. Dover is a town of about 250, nestled on the banks of the Ohio River. While plenty of modern amenities can be found nearby—Cincinnati is only an hour away—its placement in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains makes it the perfect starting point for your own frontier adventure. —PAUL HOPE

1] The three-bedroom, one-bath house sits on a half acre near the center of town. 2] A staircase provides access to the upstairs bedrooms. 3] The house is heated only by four wood-burning fireplaces, each with a dedicated chimney. The one here adorns a downstairs parlor. 4] This second-floor bedroom is lit by large double-hung windows. The wide plank cedar floorboards are 5 to 8 inches across.

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